

Hafa Adai!

CEC chief plans to retire after this election is over. PAGE 3
Fewer crowds seen at polling sites. PAGE 11

75¢

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Neck-and-neck races

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A reinvigorated N M I Democratic Party made inroads in the turf of the traditionally dominant Republican Party in last Tuesday's election after 10 of its candidates won seats to match the 10 seats the GOP also won, based on the unofficial tabulation by the Commonwealth Election Commission.

See NECK on Page 4

- 10 Democrats, 10 Republicans, 4 independents win based on CEC's unofficial tabulation results
- 22nd Legislature will have 7 women lawmakers
- Remaining absentee ballots will not likely affect unofficial results
- Yumul's 35-vote margin over Corina Magofna closest to change with remaining absentee ballots
- Propst top vote-getter in Precinct 1 without campaigning; if he does not accept the seat, there will be a special election



Staff of the Commonwealth Election Commission monitor the counting machines as they process the ballots early Wednesday morning at the Pedro P. Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, where the ballot counting was held.

NEIL FAMA

Trump wins FLA, Biden wins ME, AZ

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN and ALEXANDRA JAFFE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump won Florida, the nation's most prized battleground election state, and he and Democrat Joe Biden shifted their focus early Wednesday to three Northern industrial states that

See TRUMP on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

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- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Inos, Naraja, Govendo win retention bids

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth saw a majority of votes leaning toward retaining three



Inos



Naraja



Govendo

members of the CNMI judicial branch in this year's general elections—Supreme Court Justice Perry Borja Inos, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, and Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

After over 10 hours of tabulating ballots from Tuesday evening to early Wednesday morning, the Commonwealth Election Commission and its staff found that majority voted yes to the re-

See INOS on Page 4

Tenorio, Atalig take lead in BOE contest

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Winning by a landslide, Maisie B. Tenorio took the lead for a seat on the Board of Education for Saipan and the Northern Islands, with a total of 7,175 votes, while Herman Manglona Atalig secured his seat on the BOE for Rota with a total of 940 votes, based on the unofficial tally of the Commonwealth Election Commission.

In second place was Gregory Pat



Tenorio



Atalig



Borja

Borja with 4,811 votes, while Stephen Carl Woodruff came in third with 2,826 votes.

Just before the election last

Tuesday, Tenorio posted a message on Facebook where she outlined her vision and goals as a member of the BOE: to create opportunities for students, parents, and guardians "to provide meaningful feedback to the BOE to review and update policies in which they reflect and operationalize the 'Students First' motto, and to encourage and sup-

See TENORIO on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

To many here on Saipan, Gloria Hunter is "Mom." Or "Auntie."

PAGE 6



BUSINESS

Xerox Corp. Saipan in Garapan has hired NMC graduate Naomi Tudela as its client manager.

PAGE 12



NATION

The battle for control of the Senate tightens as Republicans held their own in high-profile races.

PAGE 13



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Scenes From An Election



Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) joins the tent of the Republican Party near the Garapan Elementary School, where he talked with House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao, Rep. Ralph Yumul, former senator Ray Yumul, and Customs director Jose Mafnas Sr.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



House floor leader John Paul Sablan, second from right, and another Republic Party candidate for Precinct 2, Daniel Aquino, second from left, pose for a photo in front of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



Rep. Tina Sablan and a child supporter pose for a picture in front of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



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AFTER OVERSEEING ELECTIONS POST-YUTU, AMID PANDEMIC CEC chief plans to retire after this election is over

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita A. Villagomez is going to retire when everything is over with this year's general election.

Villagomez confirmed yesterday with *Saipan Tribune* that, as soon as they close this year's election, she's leaving CEC, where she has worked for over 30 years.

"I love my job," said the teary-eyed Villagomez when asked how she feels about leaving CEC, just soon after the completion of the tabulation of ballots at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe



Villagomez
early Wednesday morning.

Villagomez said she is confident that even without her, the CEC will be fine as the staff are well trained with what they've been through.

The November 2018 general elections was very challenging to Villagomez and staff as it was done a month after Super Typhoon Yutu devastated the CNMI. This year, the battle-tested Villagomez and staff faced an equally difficult job of overseeing an election in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

For this year's elections, Villagomez said they're just waiting for the arrival of the remaining absentee ballots on Nov. 11 to complete the process.

She said the election went pretty smooth.

"It's a lot faster than before," she said, adding that the two newly purchased tabulating machines were a great help.

Villagomez said they only had minor issues. "[Just] a little complaint, just like when people were displaced from the typhoon and they thought they'd get automatically transferred to a certain precinct," she said, adding that such complaints were immediately corrected.

Villagomez said that what delayed the tabulation was when the machines spat out some ballots and then the commissioners had to go through with each one and make a decision.

Although she has not seen the actual figures, Villagomez said the election's turnout looks good to her. Just from the early voting, there were over 8,000 voters, she noted.

Villagomez started serving as CEC executive director

in 2014. In September 2016, the CEC board unanimously appointed her as executive director.

Villagomez first worked at CEC as an administrative assistant in 1988, then she became an administrative officer.

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2014 FIAT 500C CONVERTIBLE	2014	34,718 MILES	STK: 14BC73400	\$7,995	KBB: \$7,365				
2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT GLS	2017	39,201 MILES	STK: 7R220	\$11,995	KBB: \$12,682				
2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS	2016	29,072 MILES	STK: 16BC051	\$11,995	KBB: \$12,943				
2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS	2016	35,868 MILES	STK: 16BC091	\$11,995	KBB: \$13,365				
2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER HATCHBACK	2016	47,079 MILES	STK: 18HS938-A	\$13,995	KBB: \$14,681				
2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER HATCHBACK	2016	39,217 MILES	STK: 20H068-A	\$14,995	KBB: \$15,830				
2018 MAZDA3 SPORT	2018	15,847 MILES	STK: 18BC54860	\$15,995	KBB: \$16,545				
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Election turnout seen at an estimated 60.79 percent

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

With 11,258 voters that have been counted so far and with a total of 18,519 registered voters in the CNMI as of Oct. 7, the Commonwealth Election Commission is looking at an estimated 60.79% turnout in last Tuesday's general election.

So far, the CEC counted a total of 8,369 early votes that were cast, plus 1,625 absentee voters. The rest were votes cast on election day itself.

According to CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol, the commission is preparing for the next batch of absentee votes that are coming in on Nov. 17.

CEC board chair Jesus Sablan ear-

lier said that they're not going to certify the results of their tabulation last Wednesday morning as official until they count the remaining absentee ballots that are coming on Nov. 17. He estimates that there are 50-100 remaining absentee ballots.

Igitol said that CEC will immediately process and tabulate the incoming absentee ballots, and that's when they can certify the election results.

Igitol said that this year's election was smooth and she attributes it to the new counting machines that she said made a difference. The counting ended at approximately 5:30am, which is earlier than the last election when they ended at approximately 8am.

"I'd take this anytime, rather than

what we had two years ago. But other than that, the election went smooth. ... [It] was slow [at first] but it picked up at the end, so there were not many problems," Igitol said.

A pause occurred in the middle of counting the ballots, and Igitol stated that the ballot that was fed through the machine was crumpled up and the paper jammed but that was easily resolved.

As for the rejected votes, Igitol stated that the votes are run through the machine and then if it's picked up that it's an over-vote, a blank ballot, or has an unclear marking, then the machine will "spit out" the paper and it will be brought to the commission's table where the commission will review it.

Magofna has 1,195—a margin of just 35 votes.

The other close contest is for the Tinian House seat between Patrick Hofsneider San Nicolas of the Republican Party and Frederick Arend Dela Cruz of the Democratic Party. San Nicolas got 625 votes, while Dela Cruz obtained 579—a margin of 46.

In an election described by the CEC as out-of-the ordinary, the 2020 polls saw former representative Edwin K. Propst of the Democratic Party land as the No. 1 vote-getter among 14 candidates for Precinct 1 of the House of Representatives, despite not campaigning. Propst, who resigned last Oct. 1, received 1,883 votes. If Propst does not accept his seat, then there will be a special election for Precinct 1. He has remained silent about his plans if voters want him to serve again.

Celina Roberto Babauta, also a Democrat, came in second with 1,727 votes. Babauta's husband, former Department of Public Safety official Franklin Babauta, may likely be appointed as replacement for Propst to serve his remaining term, which is only until January, being the next

candidate with the highest number of votes at the 2018 election.

At this year's election, 13 incumbents prevailed, while six failed to make it, based on the unofficial CEC counting.

Five women will serve in the House and another, Edith Deleon Guerrero of the Democratic Party, will join Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) to serve in the Senate.

Deleon Guerrero received 5,133 votes to topple Sen. Sixto Kaipat Igosomar, a Republican, who got 4,888 votes. Deleon Guerrero won precincts 1, 2, 3, 5, and absentee voting. Igosomar prevailed only in Precinct 4 and in early voting.

For the Tinian Senate race, Karl Rosario King-Nabors of the Republican Party got 711 votes to win over Jose Pangelinan Cruz of the Democratic Party, who got 503.

For Rota Senate race, Sen. Paul A. Manglona, an independent, obtained 721 votes to prevail over Dennis James Camacho Mendiola of the Republican Party who received 653—a margin of 68 votes.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

vor of Inos' retention and 201 voted no. In Precinct 2, 203 voted for his retention while 66 voted not to retain him. Precinct 3 had 527 votes in favor of Inos' retention and 135 not in favor of retaining him. In Precinct 4, 434 voted to keep Inos in office while a whopping 414 voted to kick him out. In Precinct 5, 381 voted to keep Inos in office while 101 voted against his retention. In Precinct 6 and 7, Rota and Tinian, 287 and 307 voted in favor of the retention, respectively. Voting no, Rota saw 41 who did not support the retention while Tinian saw 43.

In the early voting, Naraja gained 6,238 in favor of his retention but 1,151 opposed his retention.

In the absentee ballot calculations, 829 voted that Naraja remain in office while 135 voted him out.

In Precinct 1, 830 votes were in favor of Naraja's retention and 136 were not. In Precinct 2, 217 were in favor of the retention while 56 were not. In Precinct 3, 577 voted in favor of the retention while 100 opposed. Precinct 4 had 470 who voted in support of the retention with 79 opposed it. In Precinct 5, 389 voted in favor

of his retention while 94 opposed. On Rota or Precinct 6, 258 voters said yes to retaining Naraja and on Tinian, 280 voted yes. Naraja saw little opposition from Rota with just 64 opposing votes and even less opposition from Tinian with 44.

In early voting ballots, Govendo had 5,830 votes in support of his retention while 1,467 opposed.

Absentee ballots reflected 761 votes in favor of retention with 215 opposing votes.

In Precinct 1, Govendo received 775 votes in favor of retention and 176 votes not to retain. In Precinct 2, Govendo received 213 yes votes to his retention and 57 no votes. Precinct 3 had 528 votes in support of retention for Govendo and 141 opposing votes. Precinct 4 votes showed 445 in support of the retention with 101 opposing the retention. In Precinct 5, 378 votes were in favor of Govendo's retention and 102 opposed. On Rota, Govendo received 264 yes votes, while on Tinian, he received 270 yes votes. Only 57 opposed Govendo's retention on Rota and 50 voted no on Tinian.

INOS

From Page 1

tention of all three.

Unofficially, Inos received a total of 9,684 votes in favor of his retention while 2,542 voted against his retention.

Naraja received a total of 10,088 votes in favor of his retention while 1,859 voted against him keeping his position as presiding judge.

Govendo also saw a large number of votes in favor of his retention with a total of 9,464 voting to keep him in office. There were 2,366 who voted against his retention.

The *Saipan Tribune* was unable to reach out to the three yesterday to obtain comments about the election results.

In early voting ballots, Inos received 5,976 votes in favor of his retention and 1,360 votes against him.

For absentee ballots, Inos had 809 votes in his favor while 181 voted against his retention. Absentee ballots are still being accepted until Nov. 17.

In Precinct 1, 760 votes were in fa-

tion and Advocacy Systems, Inc., Borja continued to volunteer as a soccer coach and as a PTA volunteer. At NMPASI, he helps provide advocacy services for individuals with disabilities and their families in the CNMI.

Rota's Atalig also went on social media to congratulate Tuesday's winners. "I salute all the winners of the 2020 election. I appreciate your sacrifices and hard work in the call of duty to continue serving our people. Your victory clearly acknowledges your outstanding service to the community as well as our district's trust in you," said Atalig.

Speaking on behalf of his committee, Atalig expressed gratitude to voters for trusting in him, so he can continue their mission to protect and defend the educational system. Atalig expressed that their support "represents much more than the title itself," but a "belief in the promise of equitable educational opportunities for all throughout the CNMI."

3 take lead for municipal council seats

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Antonia Manibusan Tudela took the lead for Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council with 6,271 votes, Joseph Romaldo E. Santos is ahead for the Tinian and Aguigan Municipal Council with 827 votes, while William Apatang Taitano is the No. 1 vote-getter for the Rota Municipal Council, according to the Commonwealth Election Commission's unofficial tally.

On behalf of her siblings as well as their parents, Taitano's daughter, Deandra Taitano, took to Facebook to extended her "most heartfelt appreciation and love to every Gilita (people residing in Rota) who had voted for Taitano

in this year's general elections."

"[Thank you] for allowing him and believing in him to be a part of a team that will assist in the improvement that will affect our entire beautiful island Luta. For that we are grateful," said Taitano. "God bless our Luta and the entire CNMI."

For his part, Michael Napu King Aldan, who is in second place for the Tinian and Aguigan Municipal Council seat, thanked all those who supported him. "I would also like to thank my family and my committee who for the last four months worked tirelessly to help ensure my success. Your hard work and dedication will be forever embedded in my heart," said Aldan, adding that none of this would've been possible if it weren't for them.

TRUMP

From Page 1

could prove crucial in determining who wins the White House.

Neither candidate had the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the presidency during an epic campaign that will shape America's response to the surging pandemic and foundational questions of economic fairness and racial justice.

■ ■ ■

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrat Joe Biden has won three of Maine's four electoral votes in his bid to unseat President Donald Trump.

Biden won the statewide tally and the 1st Congressional District, good for three electoral votes. Trump, meanwhile, hoped to claim one electoral vote in a win in the 2nd Congressional District. The 2nd Congressional District hasn't yet been called.

Biden has won Arizona and its 11 electoral votes, flipping a critical battleground state that Donald Trump won four years ago and that could help determine which candidate wins the presidency.

The victory by Biden was a huge blow to Trump's chances for reelection. Arizona has backed a Democratic presidential candidate only once in the last 72 years.

■ ■ ■

TENORIO

From Page 1

port the development of an organizational culture that represents the values of PSS."

She said these twin goals come from a desire to "create an educational environment where our students feel heard and seen."

Tenorio thanked her parents for "being her champions since Day 1," her family, and her team.

Borja's mother, Karen Borja, also took to social media to campaign for her son. She said Borja has been actively involved in the CNMI community and its education system since he moved to Saipan in 1995.

She stated that Borja has worked in the classroom to increase student reading literacy, physical fitness as a coach, and also as a PTA volunteer. After moving to the Northern Marianas Pro-

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YEH-YEH

Gloria Hunter: Mom, auntie, matriarch of Micronesia

By LINDSAY NASH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Yeh-Yeh series shares rich stories and oral traditions of Saipan. The name is inspired by Refaluwasch elder Lino Olapai's childhood memory of being told to say "yehyeh" as the elders told stories. Once it was quiet, the elders knew the children were asleep.

To many here on Saipan, Gloria Hunter is "Mom."

Sit with her for a moment at The Shack and you'll see. Everyone knows "Mom." Or "Auntie."

Yes, she is the mother of Glen Hunter, the owner of this beloved beachside cafe, and three other children who all have made their own way in the world. But she's also the warm, friendly woman who spent decades serving the CNMI government—for both parties.

"Why would anyone want to hear my stories?" she says.

Hunter, now 73, laughs easily at herself, her infectious free spirit on full display as she weaves vibrant green palm fronds into a basket on the front porch of The Shack.

She wears a floral-print blouse, and a splash of her curly gray hair flows out beneath a straw hat dotted with fake flowers, a tag hanging from the back in the style of Grand Ole Opry country star Minnie Pearl.

"I'm an outsider," she says, explaining her circuitous path to where she sits today, just



Gloria Hunter shows a photo of her husband, who she met while working for the Yap legislature.

LINDSAY NASH



"I wanted to get out and see something different," Gloria Hunter said of when she originally left her native Palau for Saipan in high school.

LINDSAY NASH

'Yes, I was an outsider. But that's what I'd like to see—more acceptance and more camaraderie with people who choose to live here and be part of this place.'

always knew."

But it was the confines of her culture that drove her outward into the world.

Facing an arranged marriage to a boy she didn't love and demanding matriarchal obligations, she applied for and received a scholarship at the age of 16 to attend Mt.

Carmel School on Saipan through the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berri.

There were no high schools in Palau at the time and the opportunity was a perfect way to preserve her freedom and get an education, all at once. But she readily admits—she never wanted to be a nun.

"I wanted to get out and see something different," Hunter said.

Back then, in the early '60s, Saipan was still mostly jungle. The only transport on the island were bull carts and leftover war trucks. Even to get to Saipan, she had to fly on an Albatross seaplane from Koror to Guam, where she often got bumped for VIPs and had to wait for days—sometimes months—for the next plane.

In school at Mt. Carmel, Hunter often found herself on the receiving end of harsh punishments for her free-spirited ways. Like when she removed the screens to roam free or snuck snacks during Lent.

The only way she could communicate with her family was through a radio at the convent. "Hi Dad...over," she would say with the priest standing next to her, chiding her if she spoke negatively about her schooling or Saipan experience.

Once, when an opportunity arose to fly to Koror to surprise her parents, she showed up only to find out that her parents had moved. The letter they had sent informing her had been held by the nuns as punishment. "They had moved to Yap!" she laughs.

Hunter has as many stories as the palm fronds she's woven into baskets, a hobby she says she picked up to prove to her parents she wasn't useless.

She can tell you how she met her husband at a government dinner for "old fuddy daddies" in Guam, when a handsome Coast Guard officer walked in who happened to be moving to Yap, where she lived.

Or how her handsome

officer, now husband, moved from Yap to New York for his next station of duty. She arrived pregnant in the big city—but hadn't yet realized it. "Now that was culture shock," she says.

Or how she saw snow for the first time outside the hospital window when she was in labor with her first son. She thought the white flakes were ticker tape falling from the sky like she had seen after a recent baseball game, perhaps ordered up by her excited husband.

And the story of how she often swam in the Saipan lagoon at night when they moved back. Her husband and his other officers would line their trucks down the shoreline, facing the water, blinking their headlights into the dark lagoon until she swam ashore—usually around midnight.

As her husband hopped from post to post, Hunter eventually decided to return to Saipan for good. At that time, she had four young children. She knew Saipan would be a good home.

She has been here ever since. Now retired, she is one of the longest running Cabinet members in Micronesia, having served three governors of the CNMI as the special assistant for Programs and Legislative Affairs.

She is quick to credit former governor Pedro Tenorio for first hiring her.

"I'm an outsider," she said. "A female. A nobody."

But, over the years, Hunter proved herself and was hired time and again for the job for both political parties—an unusual feat for such a position.

"When I got in, I said, 'I'm going to work my tail off. I'm going to prove to them I can do this job better than the others. And I did. I worked hard."

Hunter has now finished weaving the basket. She ties one last frond along the bottom and nods at her handiwork.

"Yes, I was an outsider," she says. "But that's what I'd like to see—more acceptance and more camaraderie with people who choose to live here and be part of this place."

Hunter smiles at a teenager who walks past. "How's your grandmother?" she asks.

"Bye, Mom," another woman says, leaving the cafe.

Hunter waves back, smiling. She, a matriarch of Micronesia—a mother to so many who call this island home.

Lindsay Nash is a writer and photographer who lives on Saipan. She is a member of the Marianas Writers' Movement and is currently writing a novel about 20th century Saipan. Email her at lindsay@saipan@gmail.com.



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SCC elects new board of directors

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrera@saipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce filled five vacant board seats yesterday during their general membership meeting at the Grand Ballroom of Hyatt Regency Saipan. The new SCC board members are Marcia Calvo, Joe Guerrero, Das Krishnan, Janice Tenorio, and Shayne Villanueva.

All Chamber member representatives were given the opportunity to vote for their candidate of choice through online and in-person voting. The new board members will serve a term of two years.

Das Krishnan, who will serve as a board member for the first time, looks forward to contributing his knowledge and experience. "I am excited. . . I want to see how the whole board works...see what I can do. With my age and wisdom, it will be awesome," he said.

Das Krishnan, who is Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's food & beverage director, has been a Chamber member for 12 years and part of his plans for running is to serve the Chamber and its members by actively supporting Chamber events and using his wide network to help the Chamber accomplish his goals.

Shayne Villanueva, who is going in for his second term as board member, and represents Assurance Brokers Inc. feels that there is more work to be done "...and this is the reason why I wanted to run again. For myself, I try to work a lot with the youth and I feel like that I am their connection to the team [SCC]."

"It is exciting and I am ready to give back again to the business community and our CNMI community. I am ready to serve this new term and hopefully, many more terms," he added.

Incumbent board member Guerrero, who represents Naked Fish Bar & Grill, initially did not want to run anymore but he was persuaded otherwise by other Chamber members. "I reconsidered... and it is good because it actually allows me to continue to give service to the Chamber. . . I am happy to see that the Chamber is getting more dynamic and starting to play a role in aid of legislation to better help the community. . . Even the governor has reached out to the Chamber for a comment, which is a nice change," he said

He assured, though, that the Chamber remain non-partisan "and our goal is always in the interest of the community so we will continue to work and give fair opinions."

Calvo represents Calvo's Insurance Underwriters and Tenorio is from IT&E CNMI.

The five elected Chamber board members will join Alex Sablan of TanHoldings, Velma Palacios of IT&E, Michael S. Johnson of Deloitte, Glen Hunter of The Shack, and Janel Pangelinan of Pacific Insurance Underwriters.

The general membership meeting yesterday was also the first time the Chamber held an in-person meeting since March. The event was attended by Chamber members and representatives following health and safety protocols.



From left, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios, board member Michael S. Johnson of Deloitte, and newly elected board members Marcia Calvo of Calvo's Insurance Underwriters, Das Krishnan of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Janice Tenorio of IT&E, Joe Guerrero of Naked Fish, and Shayne Villanueva of Assurance Brokers Inc. Saipan at the SCC general membership meeting yesterday at the ballroom of Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.

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EXCITEMENT
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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

An A to Z look back at key moments in the 2020 presidential campaign

As the longest presidential election in modern memory continues to play out, with threats of legal challenges and protracted ballot counts, there's one thing we can definitively say about the contest between Republican Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden: The contentious campaign is finally over. Here's an A-Z look back at some key moments that defined the battle in 2020.

A is for the country's top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, and the attacks the president has levied against him, calling him a "disaster" and, most recently, threatening to fire him following the election.

B is for bleach, which President Donald Trump stopped just short of telling Americans to ingest in April as a coronavirus treatment, speculating to reporters that applying disinfectants or "very powerful light" inside the body, particularly the lungs, could be an effective way to eliminate COVID-19.

C is for COVID-19, specifically the case contracted by President Trump last month, which kept him off the campaign trail for 10 days and gave him more fodder for his claims that the virus is nothing to "be afraid of" and that Americans shouldn't let it "take over" their lives.

D is for the drive-by visit President Trump paid the streets of Bethesda, Maryland, last month while he was supposed to be quarantined at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center for the coronavirus, forcing Secret Service agents to play chauffeur and put themselves at risk of getting sick.

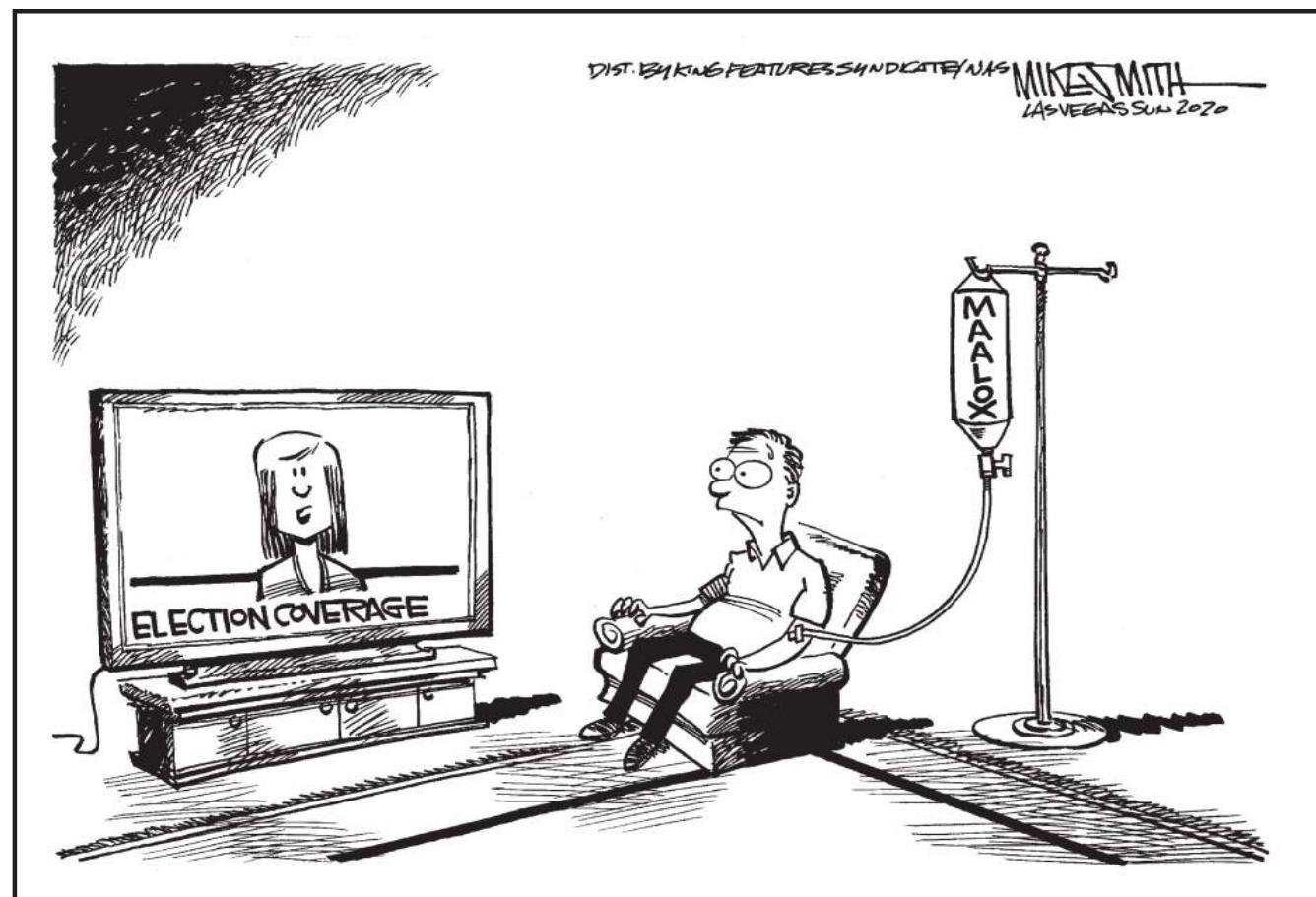
E is for Election Day preparation like none other in our collective modern memory, with businesses across the country boarding up windows and hiring additional security in anticipation of post-vote violence.

F is for the damage a forklift did to a brick walkway from the 1930s at Fort McHenry, where Vice President Mike Pence chose to deliver his political address during the Republican National Convention in August, despite his boss' repeated dismissals of Baltimore as an urban hellhole.

G is for George Floyd, the Black man whose suffocation death at the hands of a Minneapolis officer in May sparked nationwide protests over police brutality and unjust treatment of African Americans, putting law enforcement reform and the Black Lives Matter movement front and center in the 2020 election.

H is for the historic addition of Sen. Kamala Harris to Joe Biden's ticket as his running mate, making her the first Black woman and first person of Indian descent to accept the Democratic vice presidential nomination.

See CAMPAIGN on Next Page



Stop pretending anything about this election is normal

Having finally reached Election Day 2020, I am here to point out the obvious:

No matter what happens next, this is not normal. Every presidential election crackles with tension, or it should. It is important who leads the United States of America and there are always big differences in how each candidate and his or her supporters believe this should be done. What policies will benefit the economy; what role the federal government should play in people's everyday lives; how our country should relate to the rest of the world; what our position is on climate change, immigration, foreign aid; who pays for what and how?

The answers to these questions are deeply significant, and every four years election day is a time of fear and hope, anxiety and elation, just as the days ahead of the election are inevitably filled with escalating rhetoric, accusation, hyperbole and often, alas, fabrication. And that's completely normal.

But let's not pretend that cities boarding themselves up in fear of Election Day violence is normal.

Trucks filled with one candidate's supporters driving through neighborhoods as an act of intimidation, or shutting down highways and bridges as a non-protest display of force, or surrounding a bus filled with supporters of the other candidate and almost forcing it off the road, is not normal.

Repeated efforts by one campaign to have certain types of ballots disqualified is not normal. Having a president continually claim that if he does not win, the election is rigged, is not normal. Having a postmaster general attempt to instill new rules that will slow down mail distribution during any election year is not normal; having him do it ahead of a presidential election that has been made—because of a deadly pandemic—disproportionately dependent on mail-in ballots, is definitely not normal.

Having a "non-scalable" security fence, however absurd and clearly symbolic, built around the White House two days before the election is absolutely not normal.

Four years ago, Donald Trump campaigned for and won the presidency by declaring that he would not be a normal president, and many Americans, though not most Americans who voted, thought this would be a good thing.

And as we entered the final days of the campaign, the president clearly did his level best to see how far the acceptable definition of "not normal" would go. He and Vice President Mike Pence held rallies that flagrantly disregarded the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic and the guidelines created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Trump administration's own advisors. The result appears to be spiking cases in every state they have visited.

This. Is. Not. Normal.

By MARY McNAMARA
Los Angeles Times

Mary McNamara is a culture columnist and critic for the Los Angeles Times.



I don't want to get into the politics, personalities or platforms involved; there is blame enough to go around, but that is not the point. Not at this moment in time. I have no idea what will happen today or tomorrow or the day after that, no idea how or when this election will be decided or what the result will be.

But we need to take a deep breath and look around at what we are seeing, in our own lives and on our many screens. Yes, the pandemic has put life on a continuous sliding scale of horror/fear/outrage/agitation, but the pandemic is not why we were boarding up our storefronts or shutting down bridges or begging each other for tips on how to get through an Election Day in a way that is not even close to joking.

We have been told our country's soul is on the line, which is kind of normal—every election is the most important in history to the campaigners—and it seems that more of us than ever before believe it, which is not.

I don't know how to define a country's soul but certainly our culture, which generally reflects our definition of "normal," is on the line. This perpetual mood of anxiety and antagonism, of verbal and physical aggression, of ever-increasing attempts to destroy the most important element of this country's name and identity—united—cannot become normal.

We will never agree on things like tax codes or immigration policy, will always argue about the role of the federal government in our daily lives. But our free elections should never again be so obviously threatened by our own president, our support for any candidate should never put us at risk of being infected by a deadly virus, and unless, God forbid, we have been invaded by another country's army, the White House should never again be a fortress.

This has been a deadly, frightening, outrageous, infuriating year, but this country is strong; no matter this election's outcome, the U.S. can survive death, fight, outrage and fury. The only thing it can't survive is the notion that those forces—as unleashed by this extraordinary year—are normal.

Because a country in which this election is "normal" is a country no longer our own.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

De-emphasizing politics may be the best way to mend fences

The day before Election Day, Reuters ran a story about the personal toll politics has taken on some peoples' lives.

Mayra Gomez told her 21-year-old son she'd be voting for President Donald Trump. He essentially disowned his own mother in response. Gomez says he told her: "You are no longer my mother."

Gayle McCormick, a 77-year-old woman, left her husband because he voted for Trump.

Whenever I read or hear about such things, my first instinct is to wonder whether something more than politics is at work. Families with no other major issues tend not to do this sort of thing over politics alone.

Regardless, I think everyone can agree that politics feels more divisive than at any other point since at least the 1960s. In "Divided We Fall: America's Secession Threat and How to Restore Our Nation," my colleague at The Dispatch, David French, makes a powerful case that the country could be heading toward dissolution—not so much a hot civil war as a bitter domestic cold war leading to an acrimonious divorce through secession. He's hardly alone. With varying degrees of celebration or sorrow, various thinkers on the right and left have warned that America today looks a good deal like it did in the 1850s.

I agree with French and others that situation is dire, even if I'm less than convinced that 1850s America is a useful guide for 2020s America.

The state we're in is what political scientists, philosophers and psychoanalysts call "overdetermined." Something is overdetermined when there's more than one sufficient explanation for it.

World War I may have had a single precipitating cause—the

assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand—but chances are the war would have happened for a slew of other reasons even if the assassin was hit by a bus before he fired the gun.

So it is with our current mess. Americans have been self-sorting for a long time. We tend to live among people who see the world the way we do, and therefore we have a difficult time understanding how anybody could see the world differently. In a Pew Research Center study, almost 80% of Trump and Joe Biden supporters reported having few or no friends who supported the other guy.

Organized religion is receding as a binding force in our culture, and for many people, politics—in the form of nationalism or socialism or some other ism—is filling the void. Even for the religious, the animosity toward religion arouses a response that infects religion with political partisanship.

Social media tricks our brains in all sorts of unhealthy ways. Whole business models have been constructed to make money by constantly making people angry at other people.

I could go on. But some of these causes are not easily reversed, and I, for one, wouldn't want to live in a country where the government had the power or inclination to try. We don't want to start the forced integration of communities along ideological lines. Social media companies could certainly work harder at not being part of the problem. But again, I don't trust the government to impose alleged "solutions" from above. I certainly think America could benefit from another religious Great Awakening, but the last thing I want to see is a government-run Office of Religious Revival.

What vexes me most about these stories of families being torn apart by partisan politics is the underlying assumption shared

By JONAH GOLDBERG

Tribune News Service



Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.

by both sides. It's a worldview that elevates politics—national politics—to the primary source of meaning in people's lives. It reminds me less of the 1850s in America than of the 1860s in England. Catholics felt that a Protestant on the throne would overturn everything they believed about their country, and vice versa. Today, we talk about a Republican or Democrat in office as if they were monarchs with control over the nation's soul.

I'm a conservative, so I'm enamored with smaller and more limited government anyway. But even accounting for that bias, I still think the answer is devaluing the currency of national politics. If you want stronger, more ambitious government, fine. Advocate for it at the local level, where the powers that be are more connected to the reality on the ground, and where political winners and losers have to look each other in the eye.

Alternating between parties that want to unify a vast and diverse country under "one best way" is a recipe for perpetual strife. Politics should be about solving the specific problems government is suited to solve, not defining our souls.

CAMPAIGN

From Page 8

I is for the impeachment acquittal the U.S. Senate granted President Trump in February on charges he obstructed Congress and abused his power. The release, which put the onus on voters to make the ultimate decision about when Trump should leave office, was made after a cursory trial and head-in-the-sand refusal to hear from witnesses.

J is for trailblazing Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, whose death in September—less than two months before Election Day—opened the door for the Trump administration and Republican controlled U.S. Senate to replace her in a matter of weeks with Amy Coney Barrett, likely ensuring a conservative majority on the high court for many years to come.

K is for Kenosha, Wisconsin, where prosecutors say 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse freely walked around with an AR-15 rifle strapped to his chest before using it to kill two men protesting the police shooting of Black Kenosha resident Jacob Blake. President Trump defended the white teenager, who some conservatives have held up as a hero.

L is for the Lincoln Project's smart media campaign to defeat Donald Trump. The political action committee led by veteran Republicans uses humor, wit and social media to point out the absurdity of 45's presidency.

M is for the strategic use of the mute button during the second and final presidential debate, the threat of which seemed to be enough to keep President Trump from repeatedly interrupting and talking over his challenger, as he did during the first debate.

N is for the national emergency President Trump finally declared March 13 concerning the novel coronavirus, after initially downplaying the COVID-19 threat. Since then, more than 230,000 Americans have died from the disease.

O is for the Obama-Biden stock market performance beating the Trump-Pence version according to an analysis by Fortune, which showed an annualized return of 16.3% from Inauguration Day through Election Day during Barack Obama's first term, and just 10.5% during President Trump's.

P is for Proud Boys, the self-described group of "western chauvinists" with a fondness for white nationalist memes, who got a significant boost in legitimacy from President Trump during the first debate this fall when he told them to "stand back and stand by"—presumably for the moment when they would be called to, as the president put it, "do something about antifa and the left."

Q is for QAnon, the right-wing conspiracy theorists who irrationally believe President Trump is under attack from elite, leftist, Satan-worshipping pedophiles who control the mythical "deep state" government. When asked to disavow the group last month during a town hall, the president instead praised their stance against pedophilia.

R is for the in-person campaign rallies President Trump insisted on holding throughout the country as the coronavirus pandemic raged. Eighteen of the rallies, held from June 20 to Sept. 30, likely resulted in at least 30,000 COVID-19 infections and 700 additional deaths, according to a statistical model created by a group of economists at Stanford University.

S is for the South Carolina Democratic primary Biden won Feb. 29, signaling a shift in fortune for the former vice president, who had performed poorly in the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary. He would go on to sew up the Democratic nomination within a few weeks.

T is for the tear gas President Trump authorized soldiers to use to disperse people protesting police brutality outside the White House on June 1, so he could stroll across Lafayette Square for a photo shoot holding a bible in front of St. John's Church.

U is for united, a state of being the United States can no longer claim.

V is for the video President Trump retweeted in June that shows an apparent Trump supporter in Florida yelling "white power" at protesters mocking him.

W is for Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who was the target of a right-wing kidnapping plot based on her cautious approach to coronavirus safety, which President Trump has repeatedly criticized.

X is for xenophobia and the Trump administration's decision, issued hours before the start of the 2021 fiscal year on Oct. 1, to cap the number of refugees admitted to the United States at an all-time low of 15,000, claiming the move was to ensure proper vetting of individuals, though what it really did was further the president's efforts to vilify immigrants.

Y is for the young people, who've taken to the streets in droves to demand reform in government and law enforcement. Let's hope they also made it to the polls.

Z is for zero, the number that coronavirus cases were about to be, according to President Trump back in February. As of Monday, the seven-day average of new daily cases is more than 81,000—the highest the country has yet seen.

Stand with France

The killing of two women and a man at a Catholic Church in France last week—as they prayed—was an event worthy of far more outrage, sympathy and reflection than the world gave it.

The president of France, Emmanuel Macron, called it not the act of a madman but an act of terror in an ideological war. The war being waged is by radical Islam, he said, and it is a war on the West and on liberty.

The irony about defending liberty is that said defense requires not only force, but a certain loss of liberty.

Policing, patrolling, securing borders and even a certain amount of surveillance are natural responses, and finding the proper limit to these steps is not so easy when you are under attack.

This latest assault happened in Nice where there have been several terrorist attacks in recent years, including a vicious and massive one four years ago in which the killer used a truck as his weapon and killed 80 people.

In 2015, two militants shot and killed 12 people in the Paris offices of the Charlie Hebdo magazine, which had dared to satirize Muslim extremism.

On Oct. 16 of this year, a French schoolteacher, Samuel Paty, was beheaded in the Paris suburb where he worked, after showing caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad during a civics class lesson on free speech.

Macron has said this is a war on liberty and that French men and women must stand together against fear and intimidation.

And, yes, liberty will win out, just as Martin Luther King Jr. used to remind us, love will win the final victory in the long arc of God's time.

Meanwhile, these acts remind us that there is sometimes real evil in the world. And that free people sometimes have irrational and unscrupulous and determined enemies. And that cities and communities need police officers and republics need armies.

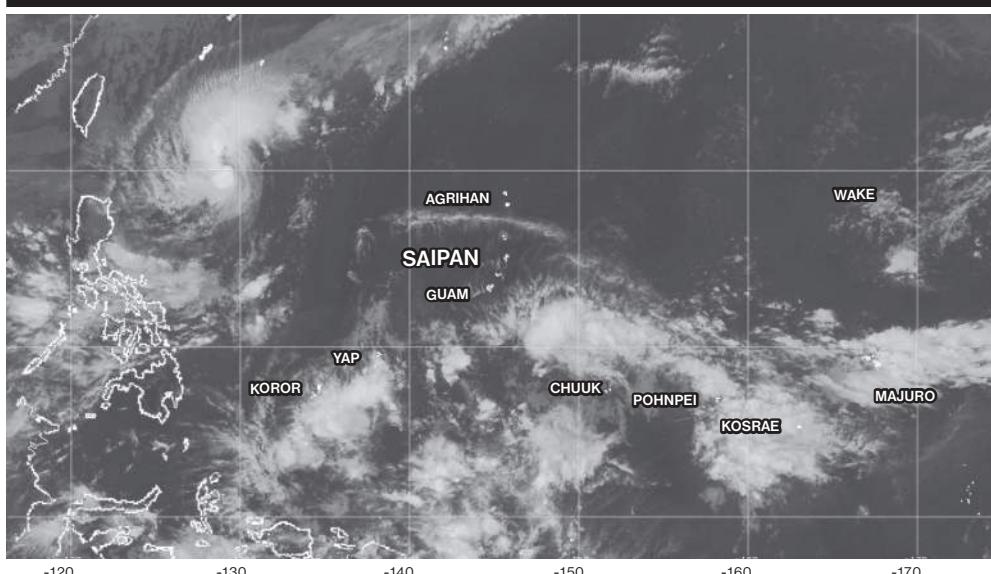
In the United States, we are at the end of a strange but important presidential campaign. But we need to take time to relearn these lessons and remember that free people need friends and allies. France has often stood with the United States in times of peril. We need to stand with France.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87°	77°	87°	77°	87°
77°	87°	77°	87°	77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:50 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam weather radar shows isolated showers within the Marianas waters with widely scattered showers southeast of the Guam waters. Satellite indicates a trade-wind disturbance to the south and southeast of the Marianas. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, composed mainly of east trade-wind swell and a north swell from a winter storm that moved off Japan a couple days ago.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas

to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Source: Office of the Governor

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

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MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:14 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:14 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:15 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:15 AM	5:45 PM
Monday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:50 AM	9:18 PM
Friday	-	10:43 AM	10:12 PM
Saturday	-	11:35 AM	11:07 PM
Sunday	-	12:25 PM	-
Monday	12:04 AM	1:13 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Cloudy	66° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 23°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°
London	Cloudy	57° / 54°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	84° / 61°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	90° / 63°
Miami	Thunderstorms	80° / 69°
New York	Sunny	59° / 50°
Osaka	Rain	61° / 50°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	52° / 43°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	57° / 36°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°
Salem	Cloudy	64° / 48°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	52° / 25°
Tokyo	Showers	55° / 46°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	60° / 47°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:07 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.21
11:25 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.64
4:53 PM	LOW TIDE	1.17
9:15 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.52

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 6:55am 7:35am 1, 4, 6				UA174 5:10am 5:51am 1, 4, 6			
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183 6:55am 9:50pm 1 via Guam				UA184/174 10:40pm 5:51am+1 3, 5 via Guam			
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183 8:00pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 5				UA184 10:40pm 4:30am+1 1, 3, 5			
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.				FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020			
SAIPAN TO ROTA				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:						

Fewer crowds seen at polling sites

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic had a silver lining in last Tuesday's election, according to various precinct poll supervisors, with pandemic regulations in place resulting in smoother and less crowded voting sites.

According to Judith Castro, poll supervisor at Precinct 4B, this year's election was the smoothest she's ever witnessed in her years of working as a poll staff.

"There were no real big problems I've seen that [would've] hampered [the] voting process," she said.

Castro believes that the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to the smoothness of this year's election since it was because of COVID-19 that the Legislature passed a bill extending the early voting by 21 days.

"I think COVID kind of helped out. Everyone was [given] 21 days for early voting so it gave people ample time to decide whether they wanted to vote early. When I first [started], we had long lines, people waiting, and it was a long wait to get in. Now, I guess with the early voting, it really [reduced] that problem. Early voting seems to be doing good. I don't know about next election if they're going to do that again but, because of the pandemic, people were not rushed [this year]," she said.

The Commonwealth Election Commission also implemented curbside voting this year, which also contributed to the smooth voting system.

As of 1pm Tuesday, Precinct 4B saw 142 voters.

Poll supervisor for Pre-

inct 3B-2 Kodep Ogumoro-Uladong said they too experienced a very smooth voting process.

"I have to give a lot of credit to Sen. Sixto Igisomar and the Legislature for passing the early voting bill to allow the extra 21 days. I think that allowed for a much smoother process for everybody," Ogumoro-Uladong said.

Originally, early voting lasted only seven days.

Ogumoro-Uladong said the CEC also hired more staff for the screening process, which he believes contributed to the smoothness since there were more people working the polls.

"We faced no problems. Credit to the CEC [because] it feels like we had a few more folks but I think that's partly because of the screening and the contact tracing so, for the most part, it's been very smooth," he said.

As of 12pm Tuesday, Precinct 3B-2 had 80 voters.

Precinct 4A poll supervisor Julie Repeki said people didn't come in all at once. They gradually came in, so it wasn't an overwhelming process.

"It's not as busy. ... I kind of like what's going on, it's not rushed. It gives people time to come in. They don't have to wait in line. We don't have long lines," she said.

Precinct 4A saw 79 voters as of 1pm Tuesday. *(Kimberly A. Bautista)*

tao Tåno' (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its first November monthly meeting on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020, from 12:30pm to 3:30pm through a virtual Zoom meeting. Call Kumisión secretary Roland Blas for special accommodations, Zoom link information and agenda at 480-4047 (rolandblas1973@gmail.com). *(PR)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NGSWCD board meeting set

The Northern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District regular monthly board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2020, at pm. Call 483-0097 for the Zoom link. *(PR)*

CHamoru commission meeting set

The *Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la'i Tao-*



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors (including Tinian and Rota contractors) that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing for calendar years 2020 and 2021. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on our listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies that are not on our list of approved contractors but wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Current Financial Statements (certified by the principle executive officer and principle financial officer)
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Returns
4. 2 Years Corporate Income Tax Returns (1120)
5. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
6. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
7. Workmen's Compensation Policy
8. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
9. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts
10. At least three (3) reference letters from owners of the completed projects
11. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them (CONSTRUCTION QUARRY, READY - MIX CEMENT & HARDWARE STORES)
12. Company background
13. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable
14. Annual Report (Registrar of Corporations)
15. Registration on the System for Award Management (SAM) official U.S. Government website and provide DUNS (number).

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Businesses (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/S/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-21-003

A&E DESIGN SERVICES FOR WEST SAN JOSE HOMESTEAD (TINIAN) WATERLINE PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for A&E Design Services for West San Jose Homestead (Tinian) Waterline Project.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes marked "CUC-RFP-21-003, A&E Design Services for West San Jose Homestead (Tinian) Waterline Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than November 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST). Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on November 9, 2020 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer via email address larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior, via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-19-028 Revision No.2

REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi WWTP Clarifier in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and effluent launder box, construction of a sloped concrete floor, and other miscellaneous features. The work shall include; the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier, routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period, and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. If you have purchased this IFB before you do not have to repurchase but you would need to register with our office to receive a package.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on October 29, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-028, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier Revision No. 2" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) November 17, 2020, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on November 5, 2020 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Western Knudsen, P.E., CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer and to CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician, Christie L. Sablan at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Business

Tudela joins Xerox Corp. Saipan

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrera@saipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Xerox Corp. Saipan located in Garapan, which supplies copiers and printers to businesses and the local and federal government, hired Northern Mari-



Xerox Corp. Saipan client managers Naomi Tudela, left, and Ciara Ada always ensure excellent service and customer satisfaction.

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DLNR/DFW-007**

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 25, 2020 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF A 21' TO 22' FEET FIBERGLASS BOAT FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES,
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE – FISHERIES SECTION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS IS REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-OGM-010**

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 07, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) BRUSH FIRE TRUCK
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES (ROTA BRANCH). A PROJECT
UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, OFFICE OF
GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

anas College graduate Naomi Tudela last March as client manager to better ensure excellent customer service and satisfaction. Tudela is responsible for taking care of clients' needs to keep up with new technologies and automate of-

fice workflow. "As client manager, I represent the client with their Xerox needs in their office, solutions needs which connects our clients to the use of technology without sacrificing convenience security and affordability, software needs and anything that they need for whatever to perform more efficiently. Even during this pandemic, we have had businesses that needed quick solutions and so we are able to deliver," Tudela said.

"I started in March right at the beginning of pandemic and the support from the

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP)—The cruise industry has jettisoned hopes of restarting operations this year.

Days after both Carnival and Norwegian extended a halt on cruises through the end of the year, the group that represents cruise lines with 95% of global ocean-going capacity said Tuesday that its members have agreed to extend the suspension of U.S. sailing operations for the rest of 2020.

The announcement comes just days after the U.S. government effectively lifted its no-sail order despite a global spike in coronavirus infections.

Cruise Lines International Association—which includes cruise giants Princess, Carnival, and Royal Caribbean—said that its members have

staff and company have been amazing. They check on our families, our health and safety, and even during and after super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu, Xerox have really supported all their employees and families," Tudela added.

Born and raised on Saipan, Tudela is a proud graduate of Mt. Carmel High School and took up Business Management at NMC. "We are currently a team of five in the company. Although small, we work as a family and we support every single customer that uses our products... We are all local hires at Xerox, our technician

voluntarily opted to maintain the current suspension of cruise operations in the U.S. through the end of the year.

Members "will use the remainder of the year to prepare for the implementation of extensive measures to address COVID-19 safety" with the guidance of public health experts and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the association said.

On Friday, federal health officials issued new rules that will enable large cruise ships to start sailing again in U.S. waters, though not immediately. Among the CDC's requirements is that ship owners must test all passengers and crew at the start and end of all voyages, which are limited to seven days.

is local and he is very gracious to help customers right away," she said.

"We also get a lot of support from our Guam team. In fact, we fly in technicians from Guam and even from the states especially during the disaster to support clients and keep businesses going. With the dedication and commitment that we have, I really stand by our brand. Xerox Corp. is a *Fortune 500* company and they really take care of their employees," Tudela added.

Providing service in the CNMI for over 30 years, fellow client manager Ciara Ada said that Xerox come up with new products every three to five years. "We just came up with a new product line our

Cruise industry throws in the towel on 2020, looks to 2021

In mid-March, the CDC ordered cruise ships to stop sailing to U.S. ports after several outbreaks convinced officials that the vessels were potential cauldrons of infection. After being renewed several times the most recent order expired in October, with the new guidelines effectively bringing the no-sail order to an end.

The cruise industry has been essentially closed for business since mid-March, when it became clear that the deadly and contagious virus had already been sweeping through the U.S. unabated for weeks. The cruise association estimates that the suspension of cruises snuffed out more than \$25 billion in economic activity, and 164,000 American jobs.

Shares in the major cruise line

AltaLink series C-81 series B-81 series and these are improved product line from our last product launch which we did three years ago. We are hoping to do another show about our products," she said.

"Upcoming plans include releasing our wide format product which means we are going to start selling wide format printers which can print big banners, engineering maps things like that. In the past we didn't sell these as much and actually stopped selling them a while back. Now that we are getting back into that, we are going to be servicing the wide format products and providing supplies and we are looking forward to that," she added.

Cruise industry throws in the towel on 2020, looks to 2021

companies started to decline in February as the virus spread, and hit bottom in mid-March when the U.S. economy effectively shut down. Companies have suffered billions in losses this year, wiping out more than 70% of their value.

The CDC's guidelines from last week say that in order to resume carrying passengers, the companies have to demonstrate they have procedures for testing, quarantining and isolating passengers and crew. They will have to build test labs on all ships, and make their own arrangements to isolate or quarantine passengers on shore if needed. Before being allowed to sail, they will have to conduct mock voyages with volunteers playing passengers who get sick, the CDC said.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: DPW/SWMD21-RFP-002**

SUBMISSION DATE: December 4, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"Scope of Services for Removal,
Packaging, Containment and Shipping
of Hazardous Waste Materials Collected
at the Lower Base Transfer Station"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL Conference is scheduled on **November 17, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME** AT THE Solid Waste Transfer Station Conference Room Lower Base.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Blas T. Mafnas, Acting Director of Solid Waste Management Division **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS November 24, 2020**. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP21-DCCA/CCDF-008**

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 07, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**"TO UPDATE THE CNMI EARLY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES
FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS, PRE-SCHOOL, & THROUGH KINDERGARDEN
ENTRY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS,
CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MS. MARIBEL S.D. LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMIN.** VIA E-MAIL AT **mloste.cnmiccd@gmail.com** **NO LATER THAN 4:30 PM., LOCAL TIME, NOVEMBER 25, 2020**, ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND OFFICE, BUILDING NO. 1347, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN AT **10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, NOVEMBER 23, 2020**. ALL ATTENDEES ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & EXERCISE SOCIAL DISTANCING THROUGHOUT THE MEETING.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Nation

Routes to Senate control narrow as GOP holds back Democrats

WASHINGTON (AP)—The battle for control of the Senate tightened Tuesday after Democrats picked up a seat in Colorado, but suffered a setback in Alabama, and Republicans held their own in high-profile races in South Carolina, Texas and Kansas, narrowing the political map.

Republicans fought to retain their Senate majority against a surge of Democrats challenging President Donald Trump's allies. Both parties saw paths to victory, but the Democrats' were narrowing. With several races still too early to call, and one Georgia contest heading to a January runoff, the final verdict might not be known on election night.

Democrats ousted Cory Gardner for John Hickenlooper in Colorado, a must-win seat if Democrats were to wrest the majority. Gardner was among the most endangered incumbents as his state shifted leftward in the Trump era.

"It's time for a different approach," Hickenlooper said in a live video message posted on Facebook.

But several battlegrounds broke for Republicans, including an open seat in Kansas. Rep. Roger Marshall prevailed over Democratic state Sen. Barbara Bollier, a former Republican, who energized Democrats in a state that hasn't elected a Democrat to the Senate since 1932.

From New England to the Deep South and the Midwest to the Mountain West, Repub-



U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina makes his victory speech after winning another term in office on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020, in Columbia, S.C. AP

licans defended seats in states once considered long shots for Democrats. The Trump administration's handling of the COVID-19 crisis, its economic fallout and the nation's uneasy mood all seemed to be on the ballot.

Trump loomed large over the Senate races as did Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden. They swooped into key states, including Iowa, Georgia and Michigan, in the final days of

the campaigns. Voters ranked the pandemic and the economy as top concerns, according to AP VoteCast, a national survey of the electorate.

Securing the Senate majority will be vital for the winner of the presidency. Senators confirm administration nominees, including the Cabinet, and can propel or stall the White House agenda. With Republicans now controlling the chamber, 53-47, three or four seats will deter-

mine party control, depending on who wins the presidency because the vice president can break a tie.

In Kentucky, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell fended off Democrat Amy McGrath, a former fighter pilot in a costly campaign, but he acknowledged his GOP colleagues face tougher races.

"We don't know which party will control the Senate," McConnell said from Louisville. "But

some things are certain already. We know grave challenges will remain before us, challenges that could not care less about our political polarization. We know our next president will need to unite the country, even as we all continue to bring different ideas and commitments to the table."

White House confidant Lindsey Graham survived the fight of his political life in South Carolina against Demo-

ocrat Jamie Harrison, whose campaign stunned Washington by drawing more than \$100 million in small-scale donations. In Texas, Sen. John Cornyn turned back Democrat MJ Hegar, a former Air Force helicopter pilot, in his hardest-fought election in almost two decades.

Republicans flipped the seat in Alabama that Democrat Doug Jones had won in a special election as former Auburn football coach Tommy Tuberville was elected in the Trump stronghold.

In Georgia, two Senate seats were being contested.

One already is headed to a Jan. 5 runoff after no candidate reached the 50% threshold to win. GOP Sen. Kelly Loeffler will face Democrat Raphael Warnock in a special election for the seat Loeffler was tapped to fill for retired Sen. Johnny Isakson.

In the other, GOP Sen. David Perdue, the former business executive Trump calls his favorite senator, tried to stave off Democrat Jon Ossoff, another candidate who has benefited from the "green wave" of campaign donations. It too, is expected to go to a runoff.

The Senate will welcome some newcomers as others retire. In Tennessee, Republican Bill Hagerty won the seat held by Sen. Lamar Alexander, who is retiring. Republican Cynthia Lummis, the former congresswoman from Wyoming, won the Senate seat opened by retiring GOP Sen. Mike Enzi.

Virus hospitalizations surge as pandemic shadows US election

(AP)—Americans went to the polls Tuesday under the shadow of a resurging pandemic, with an alarming increase in cases nationwide and the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 reaching record highs in a growing number of states.

While daily infections were rising in all but three states, the surge was most pronounced in the Midwest and Southwest.

Missouri, Oklahoma, Iowa, Indiana, Nebraska, North Dakota and New Mexico all reported record high hospitalizations this week. Nebraska's largest hospitals started limiting elective surgeries and looked to bring in nurses from other states to cope with the surge. Hospital officials in Iowa and Missouri warned bed capacity could soon be overwhelmed.

The resurgence loomed over candidates and voters, fearful of both the virus itself and the economic toll of any

new shutdowns to control its spread. The debate over how far to take economically costly measures has divided a country already sharply polarized over President Donald Trump's turbulent four years in office.

The pandemic colored who voters chose at the ballot box and how they did it. While many Americans took advantage of expanded access to mail-in voting, lines were long in many polling places, with record turnout expected and reminders of the pandemic everywhere.

"It's very serious that we have 400 people gathered in one space at the height of the pandemic here in Wisconsin. So, we've tried to take every measure to limit the movement throughout the room," said Claire Woodall-Vogg, the election commission director of the city of Milwaukee, where poll workers were spread out into 12 different

pods to limit contact.

Wisconsin health officials

reported 5,771 new coro-

navirus cases Tuesday, a

new record.

In Indiana, the Republican candidate for attorney general tested positive for COVID-19 after developing "some symptoms," his campaign announced Tuesday. Former U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita had been quarantining with his family after learning he was exposed to the virus, it said.

Hand sanitizer on voters' hands caused a ballot scanner to jam at a polling place in Des Moines, Iowa, secretary of state spokesman Kevin Hall said.

Hall said some voters' hands were moist when they handled the ballots and the buildup of sanitizer eventually caused the scanner to stop working. The machine was fixed in about an hour.

Meanwhile, Iowa hospital officials warned that facili-

ties and staff could be overwhelmed without serious efforts to curtail the virus spread.

The seven-day rolling average of the state's positivity rate reached 36.4% over the weekend, the third-highest in the nation behind South Dakota and Wyoming, according to researchers at Johns Hopkins University. Hospitalizations reached a record 730 on Monday.

Suresh Gunasekaran, CEO of University of Iowa Hospi-

tals and Clinics, said the state

is entering its third peak, one

that is higher than previous

ones in May and July. He said

his biggest concern is that this

peak comes at the beginning

of the cold weather season,

when the flu and other respiratory conditions typically increase hospitalizations.

"The infection rate is definitely a leading indicator for hospitalizations, and the hospitalization rate is a leading indicator of mortality," Gu-

nasekaran said.

Health officials in Nebraska said hospitalizations have doubled in recent weeks, reaching a record 613 on Sunday.

"No doubt if this trend continues—not just at our hospitals—but every hospital in the state could be at capacity in a very short period of time," Dr. Cary Ward, chief medical officer for CHI Health's network of 14 hospitals across eastern Nebraska and western Iowa, said during a video call with reporters.

In Missouri, leaders of several rural hospitals raised alarms about bed capacity during a conference call last week with Republican Gov. Mike Parson, who drew renewed fire from his Democratic election challenger for his refusal to issue a statewide mask mandate.

Missouri's health department reported 1,659 hospitalizations statewide Monday, surpassing by 10 the previous record set a day earlier. Among the five additional deaths was a 13-year-old boy,

the first child under 14 to die from the virus in Missouri.

New Mexico's hospitalizations marked a new high for the 12th day in a row, with 401 reported Tuesday. The state also set a record for the number of COVID-19 cases reported in a single day, 1,141.

In Colorado, officials said more residents have been hospitalized with the coronavirus than at any time since a peak in April.

Trump's insistence that the U.S. is "rounding the turn" on the virus angered many voters confronting figures that tell a different story.

The virus has killed more than 232,000 people in the country, and total confirmed coronavirus cases have surpassed 9 million. As hospitalizations have climbed, so have deaths. The seven-day rolling average for deaths from COVID-19 has risen over the past two weeks from about 58,424 on Oct. 19 to 83,805 on Monday, according to Johns Hopkins researchers.

Asia

Thai protesters won't back down on demand

BANGKOK (AP)—A top leader of Thailand's pro-democracy protests insisted Tuesday that the student-led movement will not back down from its most controversial demand, that the country's monarchy undergo reforms.

Lawyer Arnon Nampa also told a crowd outside Bangkok Remand Prison that the movement would hold a large demonstration in front of Parliament if a draft constitutional amendment the protesters are seeking is not approved in its next session, scheduled for mid-November.

"When Parliament opens, and if they do not pass the draft amendment of the constitution, we will close Parliament with our own hands," he said.

The movement wants Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to step down, the constitution to be amended to make it more democratic, and the monarchy reformed to make its activities more transparent and accountable. The protesters have been holding almost daily rallies around the country, some attracting upwards of 10,000 people.

Arnon spoke to more than 100 supporters who gathered outside the prison after he and three other protest leaders were freed from custody when a court refused to extend their detention, which had been requested by police.

Police have filed dozens of charges against them in connection with several protests, ranging from illegal use of a loud-



In this Oct. 14, 2020, file photo, human rights lawyer Arnon Nampa raises a three-finger salute, a symbol of resistance, talks to supporters during a protest near Democracy monument Bangkok, Thailand.

speaker in public to sedition. As a result, most have been in and out of jail several times.

Arnon said the protest movement will insist on its three demands, and even if it compromises on the prime minister's resignation and amending the constitution, it will stick to the third concerning the monarchy.

The protesters believe the monarchy wields too much power, but to royalists it is a untouchable institution that is the heart and soul of the nation. Public criticism of it is unprecedented, and a lese majeste law makes defaming the monarch and his immediate family punishable by up to 15 years' imprisonment.

Counter-demonstrations that have sprung up in reaction to the pro-democracy movement declare they are defending the monarchy. In recent rare appearances, King Maha

Vajiralongkorn and other royal family members have reinforced royalist passions with walking tours that take them face-to-face with adoring members of the public.

The government has urged "unity" as a way of easing the political crisis, but there are fears that polarization could foster violence.

"For the next step, it is necessary for us to step forward very carefully because their backs are against the wall," said Arnon, in reference to Thailand's conservative ruling establishment. "They prepare to use violence against us."

The protest movement has generally followed the tenets of nonviolent civil disobedience, a point underlined by Arnon.

"Violence is not the answer," he told reporters. "Our opponents will also learn that. We will protest based on peace, sincerity and humanity."

US approves Taiwan drone purchase as arms sales escalate

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration has notified Congress that it has approved the sale of \$600 million in armed drones to Taiwan, the latest in a series of arms transfers for the island.

The State Department said Tuesday it had Ok'd Taiwan's purchase of four "weapons ready" remotely piloted aircraft and related equipment. The move is likely to infuriate China, which regards Taiwan as a renegade province and has reacted angrily to previous weapons sales' announcements to the island.

"This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability," it

said. "The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, economic and progress in the region."

It said the sale would improve Taiwan's defense by bolstering its intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities and could help deter military action against it.

Just last week, the administration approved plans for a \$2.37 billion sale of Harpoon missile systems to Taiwan. That came hours after Beijing had announced sanctions on U.S. defense contractors, including Boeing, the lead contractor on the Harpoon deal, over a previous weapons deal.

China's ruling Communist Party claims Taiwan, which split with the mainland in

1949 during a civil war, as part of its territory and has threatened to invade. Washington promised in the 1980s to reduce and eventually end weapons sales to Taiwan but insists its dispute with Beijing must be settled peacefully.

Chinese-U.S. relations have plunged to their lowest level in decades amid disputes about security, technology, the coronavirus pandemic and human rights.

Taiwan has long been an irritant in relations. Washington has no formal relations with the island's democratically-elected government but is its main ally. U.S. law requires the government to ensure Taiwan can defend itself. Weapons sales to the island have increased in quantity and quality.

World

Europe tightens restrictions as virus hospitalizations rise

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Coronavirus cases hit new daily highs this week in Russia, and Germany and the U.K. announced plans Tuesday to expand virus testing as European countries battled rapidly increasing COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations.

Nations reintroduced restrictions to get ahead of a virus that has caused more than 1.2 million deaths around the globe, over 270,000 of them in Europe, according to Johns Hopkins University, and is straining health care systems.

New measures took effect Tuesday in Austria, Greece and Sweden, following a partial shutdown imposed in Germany Monday and tighter rules in Italy, France, Kosovo and Croatia. England faces a near-total lockdown from Thursday, although schools and universities will stay open.

Infections spiked in Russia, where authorities reported 18,648 new cases Tuesday. It was the fifth straight day of more than 18,000 confirmed cases, compared to the country's daily record of over 11,000 in the spring.

Russia has the world's fourth-highest reported coronavirus caseload with over 1.6 million people con-

firmed infected, including more than 28,000 who died in the pandemic.

The country lifted most virus-related restrictions this summer, and Russian officials say the health care system can cope. However, alarming reports have surfaced of overwhelmed hospitals, drug shortages and inundated medical workers.

Sweden, where the government skipped the lockdowns other nations adopted for a much-debated approach that kept much of society open, set new nationwide limits on restaurants and cafes, ordering them to serve only seated customers and with a maximum of eight per table.

The Scandinavian country announced local restrictions in three more counties that include Sweden's largest cities.

"We are going in the wrong direction. The situation is very serious," Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven said.

"Now, every citizen needs to take responsibility. We know how dangerous this is."

The country of 10 million people has 134,532 reported cases and nearly 6,000 deaths.

Amid the gloom, a partial lockdown in the Netherlands appeared to be paying off; Dutch officials reported the

number of new confirmed cases fell 5% to 64,087 in the past seven days, the first decline in weeks.

The fall came three weeks after the government put the nation of 17 million on partial lockdown, including closing bars and restaurants, halting amateur sports for adults and urging people to work from home.

Dutch authorities remain concerned the number of COVID-19 patients is putting an unbearable strain on hospitals, and Prime Minister Mark Rutte announced further restrictions Tuesday night.

"It's not going too bad but certainly not good enough. The infection numbers have to go down quicker," Rutte said as he explained that the government was closing cinemas, theaters, swimming pools and museums for two weeks.

He warned that some regions could be placed under curfews if infection rates do not drop, and warned residents of the Netherlands not to travel abroad until mid-January.

In Britain, the government plans to offer regular COVID-19 testing to anyone living or working in Liverpool, a city of 500,000.

Fascinated and trepidatious, world braces for America's vote

SAINTE MARIE DU MONT, France (AP)—In one of the towns in Normandy where U.S. Army paratroopers fought and died on D-Day in World War II, a French store owner already has readied the "Trump 2020" flag that he plans to unfurl in celebration if the U.S. president wins a second term.

But in Sweden, a scientist alarmed by the increasing signs of global warming she witnessed on her latest Arctic research trip is hoping Trump is voted out, not simply because she believes Democrat Joe Biden will do better against climate change but also because she wants to fall back in love with a country she now finds repellent.

Two voices, from among the multitudes of people across the globe for whom the U.S. election is not a far-away event in a faraway land but an impossible-to-ignore contest with stakes for the entire world. For many, that's especially true in a year in which the scythe of the coro-

navirus cutting through millions of lives and livelihoods has driven home the need for countries to work together.

Because Trump has had such an outsize impact on global affairs—tracing his own "America First" course and upending traditional alliances, friendships and norms

—the possibility of change in the White House has left the rest of the world even more captivated than usual by an election in which it has no say.

"America votes and gives the world a president," tweeted the editor in chief of the Ashraq Al-Awsat newspaper, which is Saudi-owned and published from London.

As ballots were cast, global onlookers both fascinated and trepidatious braced for the butterfly effect of America's choice and its knock-on effects big and small. A very real feared repercussion for some was the prospect of a reelected Trump further closing pathways to immigrants and some visitors.

"Trump makes these un-

expected decisions out of nowhere and the lives of millions are changed," said Ishan Kalra, a doctoral student in linguistics from India who fears her studies in the United States could be cut short. "It's on my mind all the time."

By often refusing to be a team player on global initiatives, including pulling the U.S. out of international efforts to slow climate change and withdrawing from the World Health Organization in the midst of the virus pandemic, Trump dismayed many around the world who long for U.S. engagement and leadership.

That includes Gunhild Rosqvist, a Stockholm University professor just back from her latest trip studying climate warming's impact on Arctic communities. She'll be keeping a close eye on her smartphone as election results come in, hoping that Biden wins and reengages with pressing global problems.

Life & Style

News outlets preach caution as first election results arrive

Man convicted of sending death threats to Dutch princess

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—A man who sent death threats to the Dutch king's eldest daughter, Princess Amalia, was sentenced Tuesday to three months imprisonment and ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment.

The Overijssel District Court convicted the 32-year-old man of sending threats via Instagram to the 16-year-old heir to the Dutch throne and one of her friends.

"He threatened her with rape and threatened both of them with death," said Ronald van Vuure, a judge at the court authorized to speak to the media.

"The court concluded that he developed a very unhealthy obsession with the Royal House and in particular Princess Amalia," Van Vuure added in a statement posted on the court's website.

The defendant was detained by military police outside the royal family's former home in 2017 and said at the time that he had a date with Amalia, whose official title is Princess of Orange, the court said.

The man's identity was not released, in line with Dutch privacy rules.



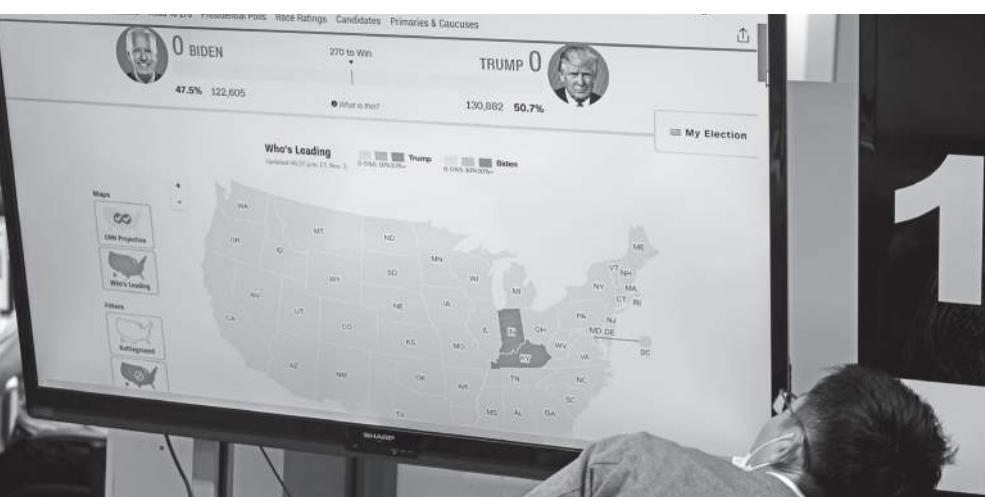
Amalia

Media outlets preached patience as the first Election Day results in the hard-fought campaign between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden came in, even as it ran counter to their instincts.

A stressed populace and flood of early voting had many observers worried about a chaotic counting process, leading news organizations to warn against jumping to conclusions.

"Counting could take some time this year, and that's OK," ABC's George Stephanopoulos said at the top of his network's coverage. "Not knowing the outcome tonight does not mean the process is broken. It does not mean the election is unfair. What's most important is that every citizen who casts a valid vote gets that vote counted, however long it takes."

Because different states will report the early vote at different times—and maybe not even Tuesday night—the tallies "could look significantly weird," said Fox News Channel's Martha MacCallum.



A screen shows a news program website on the U.S. elections as a trader of a foreign exchange dealing company looks on Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020, in Tokyo. AP

"We are tonight putting together an enormous jigsaw puzzle but we don't have the box that has the picture on it," said John Dickerson, CBS News analyst.

Shortly after 8 p.m. EST, with a large chunk of the Florida vote in and with Trump holding a narrow lead there, MSNBC's Nicolle Wallace tried to soothe audience jitters.

"You can feel the hopes and

the dreams of our viewers falling down, you can hear liquor cabinets opening all across this great land," Wallace said. "But Florida was not a state the Biden campaign was counting on. Florida was not a state essential to a Biden win."

News organizations promised to be candid in explaining why they were declaring winners for one candidate or another.

For the first time, The Associated Press said it would write stories outlining its reasons for individual calls. An early declaration that Trump would win Kentucky, for example, came because the AP VoteCast survey of voters and early voting statistics "satisfied expectations that the state's longstanding political trends in favor of Republican presidential candidates will hold," the AP wrote.

Spanish court takes over new investigation of ex-king

MADRID (AP)—Spanish Supreme Court prosecutors have taken over a new investigation into the financial activities of ex-King Juan Carlos, who recently left Spain to live in an unspecified country following the opening of probes against him in Spain and Switzerland.

The State Prosecutor's office Tuesday confirmed the court had taken charge of a new investigation after Spanish online daily *elDiario.es* reported that anti-corruption

prosecutors were probing the alleged use by the former king, ex-Queen Sofia and some family members of credit cards linked to foreign accounts not in their names.

Spanish government spokeswoman María Jesús Montero declined to comment on the case, but said the government hoped it would be clarified as soon as possible.

The prosecutor's office gave no details of the probe, but private news agency Eu-

ropa Press said prosecutors confirmed it concerned the case mentioned by *elDiario.es*. Europa Press didn't name the prosecutors who provided that information. A prosecutor's statement said they were also investigating the leaking of the anti-corruption probe to a media outlet.

The card expenses relate to the period 2016-2018, following Juan Carlos' abdication in 2014. *elDiario.es* said the probe didn't concern his



son, current Spanish King Felipe VI, or Queen Leticia.

The Supreme Court began investigating the

former king after reports of a Swiss probe into the payment of millions of euros in kickbacks to Juan Carlos by Saudi Arabia's late King Abdullah in 2008.

Juan Carlos allegedly then transferred a large amount to a former companion in what investigators are considering as a possible attempt to hide the money from authorities.

The companion, Corinna Larsen, is a Danish-German businesswoman long linked by Spanish media to the former king.

Juan Carlos' whereabouts have never been confirmed. He hasn't been charged with any crime to date.

Woman wonders why son didn't reveal partner's miscarriage

DEAR ABBY: I thought my son and I were close. Recently, I learned that his girlfriend had a miscarriage. I learned about it from an email his girlfriend sent me, and I have also learned he told another relative he's close to about the miscarriage. I called his girlfriend after receiving her email and expressed my sympathy, inquired about her health and told her that I would keep her and my son in my prayers.

My feelings are hurt because I didn't hear about the pregnancy/miscarriage from my son, and he disclosed it to another relative instead. I thought we could discuss anything—even though we disagree on some things. I want to ask why he didn't tell me and let him know my feelings are hurt because children are family treasures. Should I express how I feel and ask why he felt he couldn't share with me?

OVERLOOKED IN FLORIDA

DEAR OVERLOOKED: Resist the urge to personalize this the way you have. If you are smart, you will think long and hard—a few months, perhaps—before asking your son that question because if there is a problem in your relationship, this will only make it worse. Take this opportunity to work on the things that aren't right in your relationship with your son. He may have had other things besides his mother on his mind when this happened, and may not have wanted or needed to be reminded that children are "family treasures."

• • •

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together for almost 10 years. He's my dreamboat, everything I ever wanted in a man. Although he doesn't have a history of cheating, he is flirtatious.

My husband fixes computers. Last year, when my best friend's computer wouldn't turn on, he was happy to help. I just found a naked picture of her on his computer. When I confronted him, he confessed he stole it while he was fixing her computer. When I told my friend, she kind of blew it off. ("Men do stupid stuff ...") I don't know if I can trust him again and I feel beaten down. I have been hurt several times before in prior relationships. Abby, what do I do?

SHOCKED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR SHOCKED: Your best friend's reaction was unusual. Most women would be mortified over this scenario. Your husband's behavior was shameful. He should delete

the photo he stole and apologize to you and your friend for the "stupid stuff" he did. And, because this has damaged your ability to trust your husband, insist on some sessions with a marriage and family therapist to see if the damage to your relationship with him can be repaired.

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law has a disgusting habit: Whenever I'm starting to cook something with raw hamburger, she grabs a mouthful. I have tried explaining how dangerous it is, but she won't listen to reason. She says she's been doing it since she was a kid (she's 80 now). I've tried pointing out that the meat supply is not the same as it was then, but her response is "it hasn't hurt me yet!" Please advise.

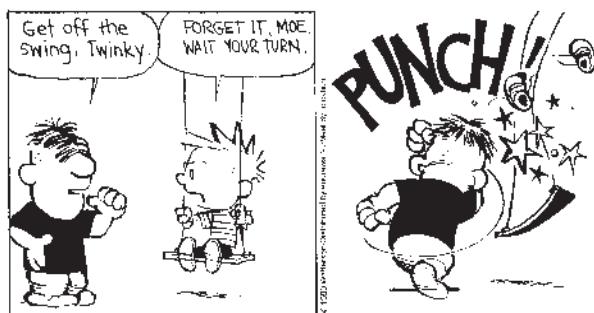
CAREFUL COOK IN CAROLINA

DEAR COOK: I'll try. Go to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration website (fda.gov) and search on "eating raw ground beef." When you do, you will find printable information about the dangers of E. coli, which is most prevalent in raw hamburger and especially dangerous to young children and people over the age of 65. Then give the printout to your mother-in-law and pray she's capable of changing her ways.

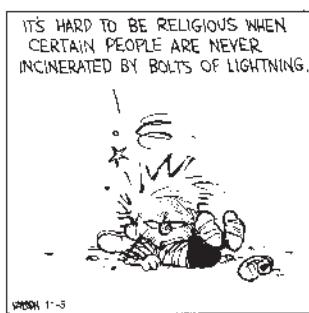
To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

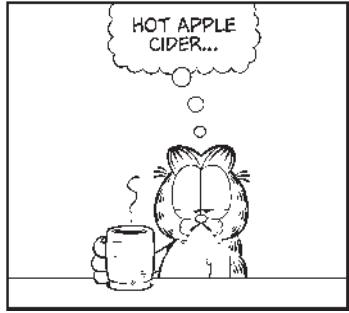
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



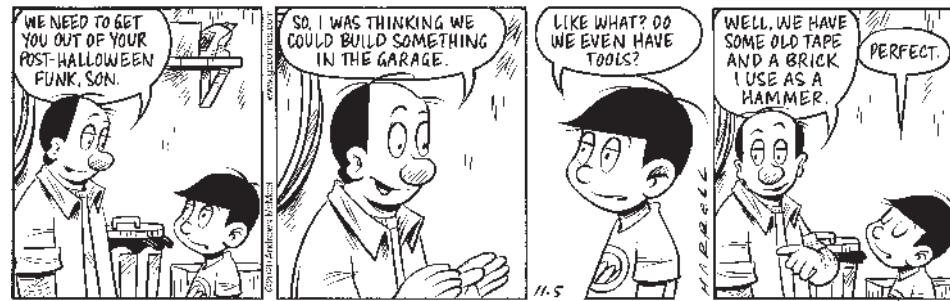
Garfield®



By Jim Davis

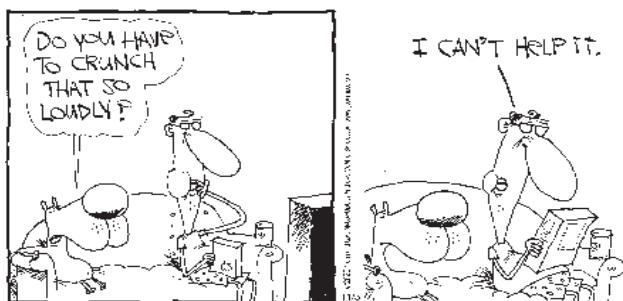


Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

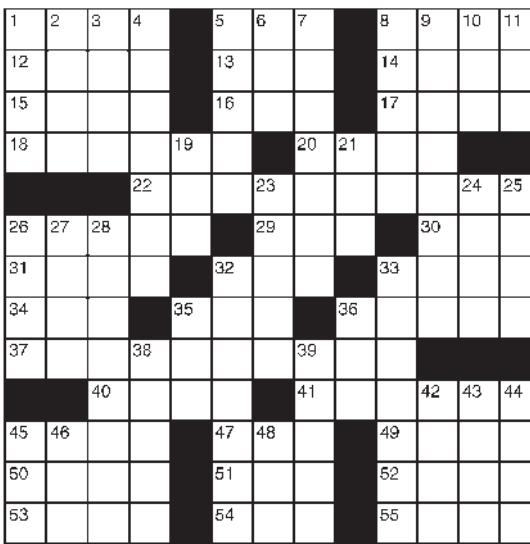
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	"The Call of the Wild"	55	Coral formation	19	Beetle and Rabbit
1	Grub	author	40	Baldwin of "Aloha"	21	Flushed
5	Coffee vessel	41	Pupil's cover	22	Pitching ace Ryan	
8	Baseball stats	45	Ersatz swing	23	Curved molding	
12	Sitarist Shankar	47	— Dhabi	24	Agrees silently	
13	Grazing land	49	Dog biscuit shape	25	Perfect.	
14	Vicinity	50	Play opener	26	Pt. of speech	
15	War god	51	Year-end abbr.	27	Turkish money	
16	"— so fast!"	52	Taj Mahal city	28	Type of menu	
17	"Phooey!"	53	"It's — real!"	32	Salad ingredient	
18	Swiss metropolis	54	World Cup cheer	33	Reception amenity	
20	Persia, today	55	— Juan	35	Pub order	
22	"Sweet Charity" actress			36	"Crying" singer Orbison	
26	Santa —			38	Calvin of fashion	
29	British ref. work			39	Wimbledon tie	
30	"Where did — wrong?"			42	Theater box	
31	Unctuous			43	Concerning	
32	Gore and Pacino			44	Like Beethoven	
33	Garden intruder			45	Bar bill	
34	New Deal agcy.			46	Decorate a cake	
35	Actress Gardner			48	Ann Patchett's "— Canto"	
36	Reacts to yeast					

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 11-5



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5956 99¢ per minute, touchtone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kevin Jonas, 33; Tatum O'Neal, 57; Bryan Adams, 61; Art Garfunkel, 79.

Happy Birthday: Leave nothing to chance or up to someone else. Take the initiative to do things your way. Dedicate your time to what matters to you most. Leave nothing unfinished or unsaid. Make your plans known and your determination felt by those who may try to stand in your way. Set a course that excites you, and enjoy the journey. Your numbers are 8, 14, 21, 28, 30, 42, 48.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take action, and make a difference. Don't get bogged down by paperwork or unfinished business. Take care of matters quickly, and move forward with your plans. Don't expect things to run smoothly; prepare to fight for what you want. **★★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Embrace change, and make it work for you. Expand your mind, and use your skills diversely.

your mission to convert everyone to share your beliefs and opinions. Go about your business, and give others the freedom to do the same. **★★★**

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TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Share pertinent, not personal, information. Be a good listener, friend and contributor. Patience will pay off when dealing with your responsibilities. How you handle matters will influence the way others treat you. Take care of red-tape issues before it's too late. **★★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Hide your feelings from anyone who will take advantage of your vulnerabilities. Listen and assess situations carefully. Make decisions based on what will help you get ahead. Don't pay for something you don't need. **★★★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't mince words. Be direct, honest and sincere to avoid repercussions. When in doubt, ask questions. Don't be too proud to admit your mistakes or give someone else the right to step in and take over. Let humbleness override the ego. **★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may disagree with what others do or say, but that doesn't mean you should let it be

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

6		8						
3	9		1		8	6		
			7		3			
4	6	5						
3						1		
	4		2	7				
8	6							
4	9	7	6	5				
			1		4			

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	1	9	8	5	3	7	4	6
4	6	7	1	2	9	8	5	3
8	3	5	6	4	7	1	9	2
7	8	3	5	6	2	9	1	4
1	9	6	7	8	4	3	2	5
5	2	4	9	3	1	6	7	8
6	7	2	3	1	5	4	8	9
9	4	8	2	7	6	5	3	1
3	5	1	4	9	8	2	6	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TMZ

E	I	O	E	D	I	V	T	R	A	V	E	L	X	E
R	N	U	S	N	I	V	E	L	A	I	C	O	S	V
O	T	T	W	T	O	P	I	C	E	Y	F	T	O	I
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76ers reportedly interested in trading for Harden



PHILADELPHIA—After the small-ball gamble didn't pan out, it seems like the Houston Rockets may be ready to implode their line-up and officially start their rebuilding phase. To do this, the team may have to part ways with one of the league's brightest stars.

NBA insider Shams Charania reported on Tuesday that the Philadelphia 76ers are looking to pursue James Harden.

"I'm told Philadelphia is expected to be interested in and pursue James Harden," Charania said. Charania went on to say the Sixers aren't the only team interested in creating a trade package for Harden. Despite these pursuits, Charania insists that the Rockets are not interested in moving Harden. In fact, he claims that offering Harden in any package is a "non-starter" for the team.

The Sixers have been making a lot of seemingly progressive moves this offseason. The organization has revamped its coaching staff with Doc Rivers at the helm. What makes Philly an intriguing landing spot for Harden is the addition of Daryl Morey as president. Before parting ways, Morey was the general manager of the Rockets and established a strong relationship with Harden. Morey is also known for being aggressive in the trade market, giving the impression that he could put together a package that may sway Houston to reunite him with the superstar. Yet even if he's unable to snag Harden, it's likely Morey will create a lineup that gets rid of Philly's gaudy contracts and helps supplement Joel Embiid.

"Daryl Morey, though, has a history of being active on the trade market, pursuing the different opportunities that exist out there," Charania



AP

In this Jan. 3, 2020 file photo, Houston Rockets center Isaiah Hartenstein (55) and guard James Harden (13) and Philadelphia 76ers guard Ben Simmons, center, vie for a rebound during the first half of an NBA game in Houston.

continued. "And I wouldn't expect it to be any different now that he's in Philadelphia."

Trading up draft picks

The Timberwolves are interested in trading the No. 1 pick in the 2020

NBA draft. The Warriors are interested in trading the No. 2 pick. The Cavaliers (No. 5 pick) and Hawks

(No. 6 pick) could trade their picks for veterans.

But does anyone actually want to move up in this wide-open draft?

League sources say both the Celtics and Magic are trying to move up into the mid-lottery using their own first-round picks, and the Wizards are angling to move up from no. 9.

Boston has multiple first-round picks (Nos. 14, 26 and 30). The Celtics also had two first-rounders (Romeo Langford and Grant Williams) and a high second-rounder (Carsen Edwards) last year. For a team so good, it's difficult to give so many youngsters enough minutes to properly develop.

Also an issue: roster slots. Boston definitely has good reason to consolidate three picks into one, higher pick.

Washington (No. 9) and Orlando (No. 15) might just have players they like who will be available only higher in the draft. Though it's smokescreen season, teams looking to move up must call other teams—squads that might not protect the Wizards' and Magic's secrets.

According to league sources, the Celtics have offered their three first-round picks (Nos. 14, 26, and 30) in trades to try and move up but so far, no one is biting.

The Wizards may make as much sense as any team to strike a deal, as they are picking ninth overall and could likely still find a player who would fit what they need at No. 14. They need rim protection and rebounding and that leaves three likely candidates: Onyeka Okongwu of USC, Precious Aciuwa of Memphis and Jalen Smith of Maryland. Okongwu may not be there at nine. Aciuwa is projected to go later in the lottery and Smith is expected to go later than that. (AP/NBA)

NEW YORK (AP)—A person with knowledge of the situation says the NBA's players are planning to vote on whether they would prefer to start the coming season in December or wait until January, with that decision expected before the league's board of governors meets to potentially formalize some plans on Friday.

The vote by members of the National Basketball Players Association will show how many prefer a 72-game season that starts on Dec. 22, or a season of perhaps 58 or 60 games that would start on Martin Luther King Day on Jan. 18, said the person who spoke Tuesday to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the plan has not been publicly announced.

Among the issues: revenue. The NBA believes starting on Dec. 22 would allow for \$500 million in additional revenue for the coming season, and the league's primary television partners also want that start date in part to allow for the traditional Christmas

NBA players scheduling votes on next season plan

broadcasts. Some players, however, have said starting in December is too soon for teams like the Los Angeles Lakers and Miami Heat, who were in the Walt Disney World bubble until mid-October for the NBA Finals.

But a January start would mean less revenue, on the heels of a season where the league missed revenue projections by \$1.5 billion and 14% of the regular season wasn't played because of the pandemic—meaning players lost roughly the same percentage of their salaries.

"Honestly, there's a level of compromise on each side," Jonathan Isaac of the Orlando

Magic, that team's player rep to the NBPA, said earlier this week. "You know, this has not been easy with everything that's been thrown at the league and thrown at us just as just people trying to figure things out. So, there's a level of compromise on both sides but we're

continuing to talk. ... I just hope that we can get to the conclusion that works for everybody."

The NBA and the NBPA agreed late last week to push back the date by which either party may opt out of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement to Friday. In the interim, the league and the NBPA have continued working on amending the current CBA to allow for next season—all necessary moves considering the existing language on many topics such as free agency, an 82-game schedule and more is outdated because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Finalizing the parameters for next season quickly is a top priority for everyone. The draft is Nov. 18, free agency is expected to start shortly afterward and—if the season begins Dec. 22—training camp would likely start around Dec. 1.

There are eight teams that have not played since the

league shut down for the pandemic on March 11; only 22 went to the Disney bubble for the restart in July, but of those, just four—the Lakers, Heat, Boston and Denver—were still playing as late as mid-September. Many players around the league have been working out in recent weeks, with some gathering in Miami and Southern California for informal group sessions.

Play-in tournament

Time is running out to strike a deal if the NBA is going to return in time for games on Christmas Day this year, something NBA Commissioner Adam Silver is acutely aware of.

But whether the NBA starts before Christmas or a month later on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a play-in tournament for the seventh and eighth seeds will likely be part of that plan, according to Adrian Wojnarowski and Zach Lowe of ESPN. The idea is to come up

with something that incentivizes teams not to tank, plus is one more set of games that can be sold to television partners.

The play-in tournament proposal has coalesced around the structure ESPN first reported was gaining traction in early 2018: a four-team tournament among the Nos. 7, 8, 9 and 10 seeds for the final two playoff spots in each conference.

The tournament would begin with No. 7 hosting No. 8, and the winner locking into the No. 7 spot. Meanwhile, No. 9 would face No. 10, with the winner advancing to play the loser of the 7-versus-8 matchup for the No. 8 seed, sources have told ESPN.

That setup favors the teams that earned the higher seeds in the regular season, but gives the lower seeds a chance if they are playing well. That's what worked well in the bubble, where there was drama around the

play-in game between Memphis and Portland in the West.

The bubble play-in tournament also had a standings trigger—the No. 9 seed had to be within four games of the No. 8 seed. That's why there was no play-in tournament in the East, Washington was 7.5 games back of Orlando.

Would the No. 7 seed have a trigger to avoid a play-in tournament? Last season Dallas, the No. 7 seed in the West, was 7.5 games ahead of No. 8 seed Portland, and 8 games up on the No. 9 and 10 seeds (Memphis and Phoenix). Would it have been fair to make the Mavericks fight for a playoff spot they clearly earned in the regular season?

To date, the league's 7-10 proposal has not been tweaked to include any standings trigger. The play-in tournament is meant to be a money-generating media property. Reducing the number of teams from four to three would reduce the number of games, and thus the overall revenue generated by the tournament.

Injured Garoppolo's return to 49ers uncertain



SAN FRANCISCO—Nearly three years to the day after the 49ers traded for Jimmy Garoppolo, the quarterback may have taken his last snap in San Francisco.

With the disclosure from coach Kyle Shanahan on Tuesday that Garoppolo may need season-ending surgery to repair a new and different high ankle sprain to the same ankle on which he previously suffered a high ankle sprain, the next question becomes whether Garoppolo will return to the 49ers in 2021.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Shanahan sounded like a guy who still believes in Garoppolo.

"I've got a good idea with Jimmy and what Jimmy is capable of doing, and that's why he's been here," Shanahan said. "People get better when they play more and that's what I feel for Jimmy on. One, Jimmy gives us the best chance to win. He's proven that, and it's hard that he's not going to be here for, to me, probably about at least six weeks, because it's harder to win without him. Regardless of that, I want Jimmy playing as much as possible because I know when he does, he'll only get better from the experiences of it. I think that'd be the most frustrating thing about it after having the best chance to win."

Garoppolo has had mixed performances, and perhaps more importantly he has missed too much time due to injury. In 2018, a Week Three ACL tear ended his season prematurely. This year, he has missed two full games and could now miss the final eight.

In six games this season, Garoppolo has seven touchdown passes and five interceptions.

Then there's the reality that, after he three interceptable passes in the divisional round against Minnesota, Shanahan turned Garoppolo into Bob Griese, calling run after run after run and limited Garoppolo to eight pass attempts in the NFC Championship win over Green Bay.

Garoppolo has two years left on his five-year, \$27.5 million per year contract, with salaries of \$24.1 million in 2021 and \$24.2 million in 2022. The 49ers considered signing Tom Brady in March, and their transparency could be regarded as a warning to Garoppolo.

At a minimum, the 49ers should consider all options for 2021, given that they can sever ties with Garoppolo at a cap charge of only \$2.8 million. He could be traded to a team like the Patriots, or he could be cut.



AP San Francisco 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, left, is pressured by Seattle Seahawks' defensive end Alton Robinson during the first half of an NFL game, Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020, in Seattle.

bone in his foot.

Garoppolo and Kittle are the latest in a long line of injuries this season that have derailed the defending NFC champions. San Francisco already has been forced to play without defensive ends Nick Bosa, Dee Ford and Solomon Thomas; top cornerback Richard Sherman, No. 1 receiver Deebo Samuel; and running backs Raheem Mostert, Tevin Coleman and Jeff Wilson Jr. for extended periods of time this season.

Kittle hurt his knee in Week 1 and missed the next two games before returning with a 15-catch, 183-yard performance against the Eagles. He had 37 catches for 474 yards and two TDs in six games this season for San Francisco.

The Niners have managed to go 4-4 despite those absences, but now will have to play at least the bulk of the rest of the season without their starting quarterback and top offensive player.

The Niners are hoping to get Jordan Reed back from a knee injury to take Kittle's place against Green Bay.

San Francisco also traded linebacker Kwon Alexander to New Orleans on Monday in exchange for linebacker Kiko Alonso and a conditional fifth-round draft choice.

The 49ers on Tuesday were unable to trade wide receiver Dante Pettis before the 1pm deadline.

Instead, they waived him, the 49ers announced later Tuesday afternoon.

Pettis was a major disappointment the past two seasons after ending his rookie season on a good note. The 49ers traded up to select him in the second round of the 2018 draft.

But Pettis did not show up to training camp in 2019 in shape and tumbled down the depth chart. The last pass he caught with the 49ers came on Oct. 31, 2019.

Pettis was active for the 49ers for the final time on Sunday. The only time he touched the ball came when he committed a crucial fumble on a kickoff return in the third quarter, as the 49ers were trying to get back into the game.

Pettis appeared in 28 games over parts of three seasons with the 49ers. He caught 38 passes for 576 yards and seven touchdowns. As a rookie, he caught 27 passes for 467 yards and five touchdowns in 12 games. (AP/NBC)

Eagles, Rams stand pat at trade deadline

PHILADELPHIA—The 2020 NFL trade deadline has passed and in a surprise to many around the NFL community, the Eagles and Howie Roseman stood pat, declining on making any moves.

With the Eagles needing help at key positions like a linebacker, running back, and in the secondary, the team stayed quiet amid a pandemic and looming salary cap ramifications for next spring.

The Eagles are projected to be more than \$65 million over next year's cap, and they'll likely carry over \$24 million from this season. Eagles players mentioned in potential deals included tight end Zach Ertz, wide receiver, Alshon Jeffery, and J.J. Arcega-Whiteside. Then there's Desmond King.

With impressive ball skills and sticky coverage, King was First-Team All-Pro selection in 2018. In crucial situations, King could also field punt returns, giving a DeSean Jackson-like level of excite-

ment, as he was named Second-Team All-Pro as a punt returner in 2018 too.

A big name player at a position of desperate need is available, so the inevitable question is whether the Eagles should inquire about King's service. The answer is yes.

Despite the Eagles' lead in a decrepit NFC East race, the Birds really shouldn't be buyers when looking at the state of this team objectively. A King trade, however, isn't akin to some midseason stopgap upgrade. King, who turns 26 next month, could be a significant piece for the Eagles for years to come.

Fellow All-Pro defensive backs Jalen Ramsey and Jamal Adams have both been moved for multiple first-round picks over the last year. King would not command quite that haul. Maybe a second and a third?

So what's the hold up? As it is with almost any decision in the NFL, money matters here. King is an unrestricted

free agent this offseason and the Eagles are about to enter cap purgatory next year. He'll command top dollar on the open market.

The cap situation may prove to be too prohibitive, but any smart team should make a courtesy call when a player of King's talent becomes available.

Meanwhile, for the first time since 2017, the Rams stood pat without making a trade. Last year, they acquired Jalen Ramsey, Austin Corbett and Kenny Young, while also trading away Aqib Talib and Marcus Peters. The year prior, Dante Fowler Jr. was brought in to provide some pass-rush help.

But this time around, the Rams felt confident in their current group of players, even despite the weaknesses seen at linebacker and kicker. It's hard to blame them for not making a move, too.

With the expected salary cap restraints that could come in 2021, potentially putting several teams in a bind finan-

cially, the Rams need all the carryover money they can get. By acquiring another player, they would've taken on additional salary cap obligations, which would hurt their situation next year.

Not to mention, COVID-19 restrictions make it difficult for a player to contribute right away after joining his new team. For instance, Kai Forbath, who the Rams signed off the Bears' practice squad, wasn't able to practice with L.A. until more than a week later.

The Rams are currently on a bye, so that would've given them an extra week to get a player up to speed, but they clearly didn't feel confident that anyone available would've helped them enough to warrant a deal.

Around the league, there were notable moves made like LB Avery Williamson landing with the Steelers, The Ravens acquiring pass-rusher Yannick Ngakoue from the Minnesota Vikings and Carlos Dunlap landing in Seattle. (AP/NBC)

Arenado, Gordon take Gold Glove; Betts gets 5th

 ST. LOUIS (AP) — Colorado Rockies third baseman Nolan Arenado won his eighth consecutive Gold Glove and right fielder Mookie Betts snared his fifth in a row on Tuesday, his first with the World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers after four with Boston.

Kansas City Royals left fielder Alex Gordon also won his eighth Gold Glove—and fourth straight—in his final major league season.

Chicago Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo earned the honor for the third straight year in the pandemic-shortened season and fourth time overall. He was joined for the first time by Cubs shortstop Javier Báez.

Cincinnati catcher Tucker Barnhart won for the second time and first since 2017. St. Louis second baseman Kolten Wong won for the second year in a row, six days after the Cardinals allowed him to become a free agent rather than exercise his \$12.5 million option for 2021.

St. Louis left fielder Tyler O'Neill, Atlanta pitcher Max Fried and San Diego center fielder Trent Grisham were first-time winners in the National League.

Gordon and Cleveland catcher Roberto Pérez were the only players to repeat in



the AL. They were joined by seven first-time winners, including Indians second baseman César Hernández. The others were Seattle first baseman Evan White and shortstop J.P. Crawford, Texas third baseman Isiah Kiner-Falefa and right fielder Joey Gallo,

Chicago White Sox center fielder Luis Robert and Los Angeles Angels pitcher Griffin Canning.

The 36-year-old Gordon announced his retirement in September. He joined Hall of Fame outfielder Roberto Clemente and first baseman Wes

In this Sept. 12, 2020 file photo, Colorado Rockies third baseman Nolan Arenado picks up a ground ball in the fifth inning of a baseball game in Denver.

Parker (both in 1972) as the only position players to win a Gold Glove in their last big league season, according to Sportradar.

Gordon, Hernández, White and Wong earned \$18,519 bonuses, prorated portions of \$50,000. Arenado and Robert earned \$9,259, prorated portions of \$25,000, and O'Neill earned \$3,704, a prorated portion of \$10,000.

Angels GM job

As the Angels pare down a list of at least 14 baseball executives who have interviewed for the opening of general manager, a few things are clear about their candidate pool.

Experience as a former general manager is not a prerequisite. And a focus on scouting and player development appears preferred to a reliance on analytics.

Most of the candidates, whose interviews were confirmed by several people with knowledge of the search, have decades of experience in scouting. Dan Jennings and Billy Owens have long been considered among the game's best talent evaluators. Logan

White, Jason McLeod and Amiel Sawdaye were the architects of drafts that brought in Clayton Kershaw (White with the Dodgers), Kris Bryant (McLeod, Chicago Cubs) and Mookie Betts (Sawdaye, Boston Red Sox), among many others.

Kansas City executives Scott Sharp, JJ Picollo and Gene Watson helped build the Royals teams that went to back-to-back World Series and won the championship in 2015. Jared Porter, Ruben Amaro Jr., Bobby Evans, Michael Hill, Sawdaye, McLeod and Jennings also won World Series titles as members of the front offices in Boston (Porter and Sawdaye), Philadelphia (Amaro), San Francisco (Evans), Miami (Hill and Jennings), Chicago (McLeod and Porter) and Washington (Jennings).

The goal of the new general manager, who is expected to be hired by Thanksgiving after one to two more rounds of interviews, won't just be to deliver the Angels their first playoff berth since 2014. It will be to build a sustainable

Neither the A's nor the Astros, who spent the last three seasons jockeying with each other for the top spot in the AL West, are known for handing out pricey free-agent contracts.

And neither team has a strong farm system. Baseball America's latest organizational talent rankings had the Athletics 15th and the Astros second-worst.

The Angels also received poor ratings on the minor league side, coming in 17th following the 2020 amateur draft.

Participants will only take on the 2.5K run course along the Last Command Post pathway.

Medals and other prizes will be given to the top finishers in the duathlon and trail run, while finishers will get T-shirts.

This weekend's 5th Off-Road Duathlon and North Trail Run is organized by the Triathlon Association of the CNMI and is a fundraiser with proceeds going to the group's hosting of the triathlon event in the 2022 Pacific Mini Games and for the maintenance of the trail routes in the northern side of the island.



In this 2019 file photo, Agape Christian School students and officials came in full force during the finals of the Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series at the Saipan Country Club.

U18, Tinian has only three entries in Emiliana King, Fyema Pelaez, and Cheralaine Epity.

The Dolphins have five runners in the boys U18—Josh Joson, Anthony Bergancia, Chad Escaner, Jiam Maniago, and Blake Mister—and four in the girls U18—Ariel Narvaez, Allyssa Angeles, Christelle Itaas, and Katrina Costales.

Mt. Carmel has a full roster in the girls U18 with Aleai Santos, Fiona Bucaig, Iver Dimauan, Erin Frink, Penelope Salaman, and Ha'ani Seman racing

for the Knights. Skyler Poon, Jihwan Ryu, and Lee Seung-wo of the Boys U18 division rounded the MCS' lineup.

The high school races will implement a cutoff time for safety measures with runners required to complete the course in 35 minutes or they will be escorted out of the field. No shaking of hands all throughout the event and runners must wear mask before and after the races. Only runners and race officials are allowed on the course and finishers must leave

the field right after they complete the race.

Runners in the boys U18 division will take the course first, starting at 6:30am, while the girls will have their turn at 7am.

High school runners must compete in at least one of the three qualifiers to be eligible in next month's finale races where the champions in each division will be determined by points (the team with the least points wins). Points will only be awarded to the Top 4 runners of each school.



In this 2018 file photo, Heather Brook smiles as she nears completion of the Triathlon Association of the CNMI-organized duathlon and trail run event.



76ers reportedly interested in trading for Harden

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Injured Garoppolo's return to 49ers uncertain

PAGE 18



20 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SIS, Agape renew cross country rivalry



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Saipan International School runner keeps a steady place during last year's Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Championship at the Saipan Country Club.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It looks like the opening leg of the high school division races in the 2020-2021 Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series may be a preview of the battle for the championship between rivals Agape Christian School and Saipan International School.

Agape and SIS are the only teams to submit a full roster in the boys and girls U18 division of the high school races that will be held this



Saturday morning at the CPA Airport Field.

The Torchbearers, who took last year's boys U18 title after scoring 26 points against SIS'

45 (the Top 5 runners from each school received points and the team with the least points was declared the winner), has

See SIS on Page 19



A big group of middle and high school runners heads out to the course during last season's Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series. This year, PSS and NMA are limiting the number of participants in the cross country races as a safety measure against the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Over 100 sign up for North Trail duathlon/run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Registration for the 5th Off-Road Duathlon and North Trail Run has reached past the century mark with 126 signing up online for the this Saturday's event.

The 11.5-kilometer trail run has drawn the most participants with 90 have already registered—61 in the

men's and 29 in the women's. The duathlon race, on the other hand, has attracted 36, 13 in the men's individual and seven in the women's. Nine have signed up for the men's relay and seven in the mixed division.

Both the duathlon and trail run races, which will kick off at 6:30am, will start and end at the Last Com-

mand Post in Marpi. From the Last Command Post, participants in the trail run will proceed to the North Trail Loop, pathway and then to Kimikaze Trail, Autobahn Trail, Santa Clause Trail, and Banzai Trail-Cliff before returning to the start/finish line.

See OVER on Page

